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Meadowlark

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Letter from the editor

Take the county big day challenge!

The early morning hours of May 17, 1996 were not a good omen. It stormed all night long. Lightning flashed in tandem with booming thunder. Three to four inches of rain fell swiftly and violently on Lake County. As I drove down Route 60 at 3:45 a.m. in Mundelein, half the stop lights weren't working, roads were flooded. There we sat in Denny's eating English muffins, waiting for the rain to subside: Renee Baade. Eric Walters. David Johnson. Sheryl De Vore. I called us the IOS REDS (Renee, Eric, Dave, Sheryl). We were going to do a Lake County Big Day.

We could have canoed, better yet, practiced our river rapid running skills when we arrived at our first stop - nearly an hour late because of the weather - at Wright Woods to call in a Barred Owl. It never called back. We arrived at Waukegan Beach a good hour and a half later than scheduled. It was so foggy along the shoreline, we wondered if we would see anything. But it was warm, warmer than it had been for weeks. And promise floated along with the southerly winds.

Maybe it was just luck or maybe it was a reward when Renee, with help from Dave and Eric, pried a fishing lure out of the mouth of a Ring-billed Gull she had seen flailing on the beach - and probably saved its life. But after that, miracles began to happen. A Pectoral Sandpiper flew by. Six Sanderlings scurried on the shoreline. Twelve Ruddy Turnstones displayed their glorious breeding plumage. A Black Tern flew out of the fog, landed on a perch while we all focused our binoculars on it, then promptly flew back into the fog as we all shouted, "Got it!"

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird zipped by while we were at a stop light. I missed that one, but we got three more later on. A Chimney Swift practically flew into Renee's car. A long, grueling hike at Illinois Beach State Park produced Grasshopper Sparrow. Western Meadowlark. Pine Warbler. And a male and female Brewer's Blackbird. Singing. By 3 p.m., we had recorded 127 species. Then Eric told us: Hey guys, we might break the record. What record? The biggest record ever set in a county. This was my first big day - and all I wanted to do was get through it - and we had the chance to break a record! Eric said he thought the highest county Big Day on record was 155 species.

We were pumped. We drove over to the Des Plaines Wetlands Demonstration Project to pick up a few shorebirds. More than a few. Stilt Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semi-palmated Sandpiper. Another White-rumped Sandpiper. We added 12 new species of shorebirds at those mudflats. 6 p.m. 149 species counted. And we still hadn't done much land birding. At 7 p.m., we stopped at Ryerson Woods, where the flooding had completely obliterated some of the paths. We sloshed through several new warblers, a Great Crested Flycatcher, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher as a Wood Thrush serenaded us. 154 species. To break the record, we needed two more species. So we headed up to Route 173 and Sheridan Road along the lake at 8:15 p.m. The weatherman had threatened rain for the evening. The wind speed was increasing. And we wondered: would the woodcocks be

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MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

It's great to see we have formed a strong base of over 700 members and have produced four volumes of the *Meadowlark* while staying within our budget. Beyond this are many new ideas waiting their turn, such as book publishing, workshops, and an expanded annual meeting among others. To see these ideas become reality requires a stronger financial base. Some ways we can do this include increasing membership and creating a birdathon fundraiser. In a birdathon, a team of birders tries to record as many species in one day as possible, raising funds based on how many species seen. For example, if the team sees 100 species, and donors have pledged $1 per species, that would mean $100 raised. If you are interested in these ideas or have other funding suggestions, let me know.

Eric Walters

peenting? They were. Eric heard a Whip-poor-will. A Common Snipe winnowed. Dave called in a Virginia Rail with his sound blaster and the last bird of the night, an Eastern Screech-Owl gave its tremolo as the wind speed began to increase even more.

19 species of shorebirds! 158 species total! 159 if you count the Monk Parakeet we found earlier in Zion! And, what's even more important is we raised $400 for the Illinois Audubon Society to use in purchasing critical habitat for birds. It was truly a team effort - and I credit a lot of it to my birding companions, Dave, Renee, and Eric, three of the best birders I know. So thanks IOS REDS, for the memories. And all you Illinois birders out there - BEAT THIS - 158 BIRDS IN ONE COUNTY IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS!

I'd gloat, but that wouldn't be polite.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover: *Meadowlark* art editor Denis Kania drew the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Kania has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and One Touch of Nature in Chicago and has done commissioned work for The Nature Conservancy and other organizations. You can reach him at (708) 961-5364.

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New Decade Dawns for Chicago Area Lakefront Birding

Changes on the horizon for Lake Michigan shoreline hotspots could enhance birding in the 21st century

by Christine Williamson

Imagine standing at the Northwestern University Landfill in Evanston, Cook County, on 1 Jan. 2000, looking south toward Chicago. Bend your imagination further and pretend you can see all the way to the Indiana Dunes. Difficult to believe? Well, believe it. The vista and the prospects for migrating birds along Lake Michigan's edge will look quite different at the turn of the century than they do today. From Evanston, Illinois south to Hammond, Indiana, the Lake Michigan flyway, which hosts some of the country's hottest birding spots, will undergo significant land-use changes that will alter the birding landscape, mostly for the better.

A Snowy Owl flies at Montrose Beach, one of the areas being improved along the Lake Michigan flyway to help nature as well as attract humans. Photo taken 7 Nov. 1993 by Kanae Hirabayashi.

If plans go forward as suggested by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and local citizen's advisory groups, public access to the lakefront will be improved and the amount of shoreline green space will be increased by hundreds of acres. Despite enormous pressures to develop and further privatize the lakefront for intensive recreational activities such as gambling boat docks, or to add convention capacity, Chicago's city planners seem inclined instead to add even more green space to the beautiful necklace of parks along Lake Michigan's shoreline.

The Chicago Park District is also adopting a more naturalistic approach to landscaping, using more native species and improving feeding areas for birds. This attitudinal change in land management cannot totally be attributed to the park district's new conservation ethic. Leaving rougher, grassy areas, such as those allowed to flourish at Montrose Harbor on Chicago's north side, requires less maintenance, and thus less cost to manage. Whatever the reason, rougher vegetated areas provide more cover and food for migrant birds.

Citizens' advisory groups have become active at many points from Indiana up through the north side of Chicago, and they are pushing for conversion of existing industrial sites to green space, better managed for use by people and wildlife. That such groups are seriously considering wildlife needs in tandem with people's needs shows a great movement forward for bird conservation in the city.

The South Shore

The most exciting changes, with the most potential to improve lakefront birding, are happening south of

downtown Chicago. The bottom of Lake Michigan tends to concentrate birds on their way north, before they choose the east or west side of the lake as a spring migration guideline. Providing a more attractive flyway along the Chicago metro lakefront from the Indiana border northward may encourage even more birds to choose our western shore.

The fate of the hotly contested Migrant Trap in Hammond, Indiana, will be decided this year. This 16-acre site with a grove of trees and good understory, can be wonderful for land bird migration. Located at the end of Calumet Ave. in Hammond, the Migrant Trap has attracted 70 plus species on May spring count days and 27 species of warblers on a single day.

Local birder and staunch Migrant Trap activist, Carolyn Marsh, saw a Barn Owl at close range in October 1995, believed to be the first seen on the Indiana lakefront since the 1960s. Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers frequent the area during migration and resident Peregrine Falcons hunt in the Trap. Marsh has seen American Bitterns and Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the 16 acres. Rarer warblers have appeared, including Mourning, Connecticut, and Prairie warblers. The Migrant Trap also attracts Henslow's, Grasshopper, and Clay-colored sparrows.

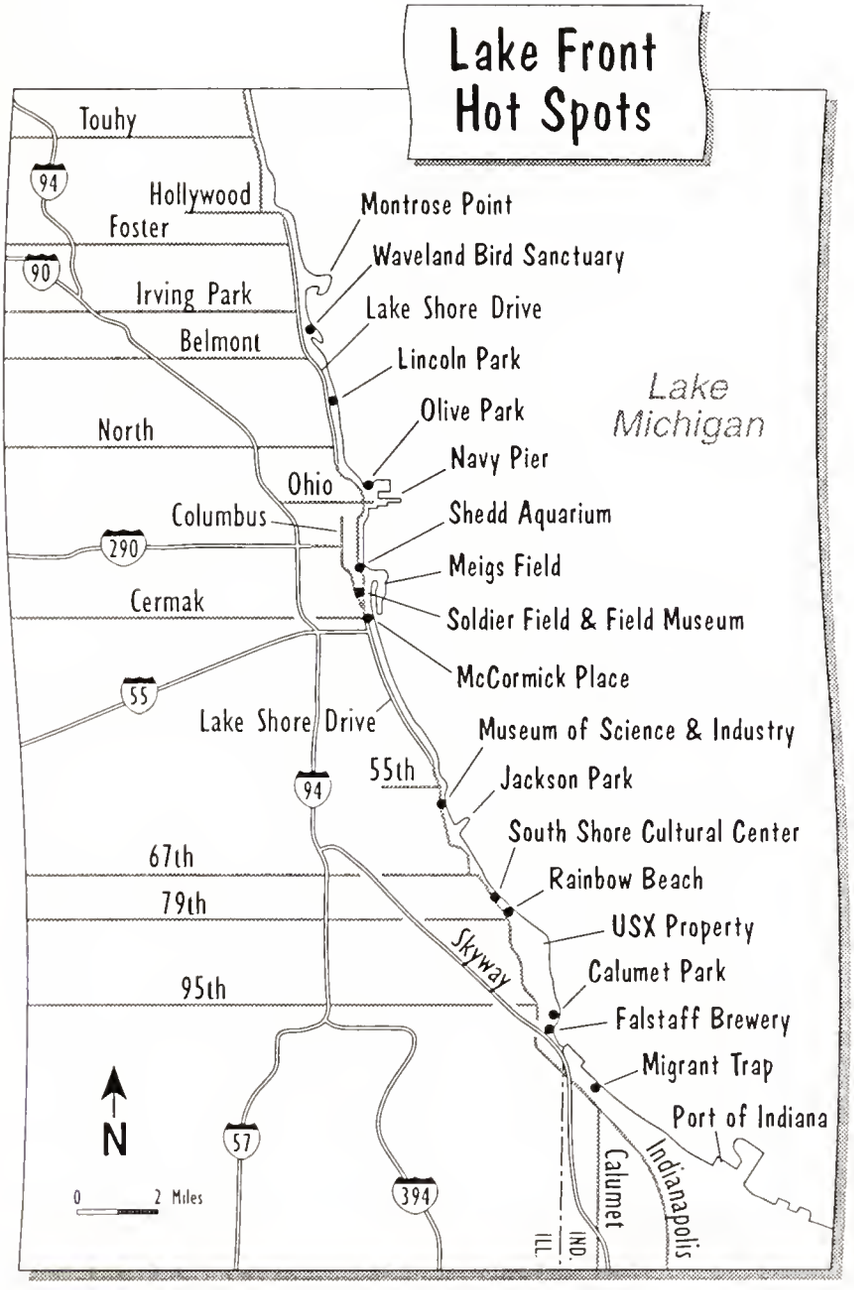
The Northern Indiana Public Service Company which owns the property hopes to sell it to a gambling company, Lake Michigan Charters, Ltd. The company awaits an Indiana State Gaming Commission gaming license and hopes to build a casino boat facility at Hammond Harbor, just south of the Migrant Trap. The casino company said it is willing to deed the Migrant Trap to the City of Hammond as a nature preserve. Habitat and parking lot improvements will make the feeding possibilities for birds even better and the site more accessible to humans.

However, the City of Hammond is skirmishing with birders and environmentalists on the use of the Migrant Trap. Rather than dedicate all 16 acres as a preserve, Hammond officials are suggesting now a roughly even split of the site into what it calls open space and nature preserve.

In other less sensitive or already intensively developed areas, the term "open space" might be an acceptable compromise for birds and humans. But open space in this case, on a degraded, but undeveloped remnant of a Lake Michigan dunal community, connotes a conversion to bluegrass parkland, ball fields, perhaps a band shell, and other land uses which would destroy the wild habitat.

The Migrant Trap is still in jeopardy. Optimistically, dedicated protection of the entire 16 acres will preserve and enhance an area undervisited by Illinois and Indiana birders.

Moving up the coast toward Chicago, several lakefront parks regularly, if warily, frequented by birders are the subject of evaluation by the South LakeFront Coalition. The coalition, made up of civic, environmental, and community action groups, is developing a master plan with improvements for proper-



Map by Matt Kania.

ties from the old Falstaff Brewery at 103rd Street north to Burnham Park.

South of Jackson Park, changes suggested so far will likely make the parks more comfortable for birders. Bathrooms, better recreational facilities, improved security, and general sprucing up will attract more local residents, making parks less isolated.

A trade-off exists for the south side birder. More people means greater safety, but perhaps more disruption for migrating birds. One of the strange attractions of Rainbow Beach is its desolation. Many times, the lone shorebirder is the only human in sight, making Rainbow Beach one of the only places in Chicago with an undisturbed, long, (four blocks) sandy, weedy beach.

Rainbow Beach, between 75th and 79th streets, is one of the least birded stretches on the whole Chicago flyway, said David Mandell, a south side birder who regularly checks the area and has discovered, Willet, and good numbers of shorebirds such as Sanderling, Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Dunlins, and Ruddy Turnstones. One of the only two Purple Sandpipers seen this decade along the Chicago shoreline was found on the rocky breakwaters off Rainbow Beach.

The area's isolation also attracts Snowy Owls. The weedy, neglected formal plantings, shrub islands, and a neighborhood vegetable garden are sparrow havens. Harris and Clay-colored sparrows have been seen here. Those birding the lake have been with rewarded with views of Surf Scoters and Eared Grebes plying the sheltered harbor area.

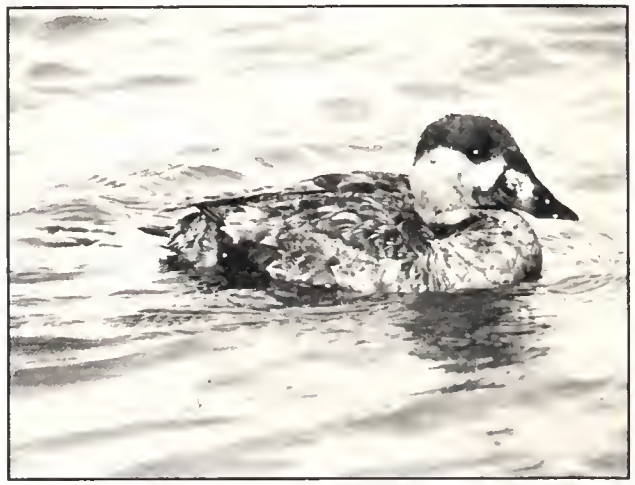
By making Rainbow Beach safer and more attractive, more non-birders will use the park. Migrating birds stop over and feed in high traffic public parks up and down the Chicago lake front, so the increase in the number of humans probably won't greatly affect Rainbow's birding potential.

Besides revamping Rainbow Beach, the South LakeFront Coalition is also pressing the city to use bankruptcy hearings to acquire the abandoned Falstaff property (which is seriously fire-damaged) for conversion to a park. The area is large and perfect for use as a park with plenty of room for wildlife resting areas and beach front renovation. The Falstaff property, if acquired, would be central to the coalition's push for a 3-mile long, green ecology zone stretching from Rainbow Beach to the Indiana border.

The abandoned U.S. Steel property, from 79th to 95th Street, is another large site critical to the establishment of a long stretch of public lakefront parkland. U.S. Steel is engaged in a voluntary clean-up of the polluted site, hoping to sell the land for redevelopment. South shore birders have been allowed on the site for years, but eventual clean-up and renovation could yield another stretch of prime flyway.

Jackson Park, stretching between 56th and 67th streets, is arguably one of the two best lakefront sites for passerine migration, especially during spring. Jackson Park contains diverse habitats, which have attracted many unusual species throughout the years, including Tufted Duck, Swainson's Warbler, and Brewer's Sparrow.

This historic park will be refurbished to its former glory, using some of the original 1871 design plans. The area was built for pastoral urban use in a time of many millions fewer users and was later adapted for the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Modern urban park usage has seriously degraded the original vision of landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, who envisioned water and moving foliage fringing peaceful, open meadows. The lagoons, for example, have suffered serious bank erosion from fishing activities. A fairly recent golf driving range eliminated a large chunk of acreage from general public use, as well as for foraging birds.



A Surf Scoter floats in Burnham Harbor, an area targeted for changes that will improve birding in the next century. Photo taken 8 May 1994 by Robert Hughes.

General maintenance, improved plantings throughout the park, mixing native and non-native plants, and shoreline reconstruction will make Jackson Park more pleasant for birds and passive recreation. Eliminating the driving range, a goal of the South LakeFront Coalition, would return considerable acreage to productive bird feeding grounds.

The Museum of Science and Industry, located on 57th Street at the north end of Jackson Park, wants to expand by building wings to the east and west. The museum also intends to replace the above-ground parking lot on the north side of the building with an underground garage, replacing the open lawn which was part of the building's original design. Many park advocates argue against using open park acreage for more buildings, but for birders, the changes are likely to be benign, little affecting the park's primary hot spots,

An Eared Grebe at Burnham Harbor. Photo taken 11 April 1994 by Robert Hughes.

Wooded Isle and Bobolink Meadow, just south of the Museum. In fact, a short grass lawn in front of the Museum might very well attract thrushes, sparrows, meadowlarks, longspurs, and pipits.

Exciting plans are in the works for the Wooded Isle, also known as the Paul O. Douglas Nature Sanctuary, and Bobolink Meadow, a U.S. Army Nike missile site in the 1950s. The Chicago Park District has earmarked this site as a priority for ecological restoration, said Michaeline Brown, a CPD naturalist and ecological planner. A consulting firm specializing in ecological restoration will study Bobolink Meadow this year and create a master rehabilitation plan for the site. Two other designated lakefront bird sanctuaries at Montrose and Waveland, which are discussed later in this article, are also on the ecological priority list.

Bobolink Meadow was planted as a prairie after the missiles were removed in 1971, but the grasses and plants introduced are unsuitable for the thin soil of the area sandwiched between the driving range and the eastern shore of the East Lagoon. Brown said contractors may have to do extensive soil work before Bobolink Meadow has enough organic matter to sustain the kind of plant community which was probably present prior to settlement - oak savanna.

The Wooded Isle, with its Japanese Garden, also built during the 1893 Columbian Exposition, is not one of the CPD's special ecological priorities, but Brown intends to devote time this year to clear out much of the shrubbery-choked, weedy areas, such as the old Rose Garden. The size of some of the large burr oaks on the Wooded Isle and their wide-spread branches suggest an open oak savanna. New plantings will include grasses, forbs, and flowers typical of such a setting.

Brown maintains an attitude about urban natural areas that may be reassuring to birders who have been alarmed by the radical actions some restorationists have taken in other areas to abruptly change a particular area back to its "pure" pre-settlement character. "I want Wooded Island to be a healthier ecosystem, with better diversity of food and cover plants," said Brown. "The bottom line is that wildlife doesn't care if a plant is a native species or not, as long as they can eat it. They want diversity of plant life and they aren't purists."

The Wooded Isle and its immediate surroundings, the woody edges of the lagoons, and the shrub islands dotted around the park and its harbors, can be remarkably productive for migrant birds. The Wooded Isle seems to particularly attract southern warbler species such as Yellow-throated, Prairie, Kentucky and Worm-eating, said Mandell. Spring migration days with more than 25 warbler species counted in the area just south of the Museum of Science and Industry are not uncommon. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron stayed for some time in 1995 and Black-crowned Night-Herons have tried to nest on a tiny island in the East Lagoon with Green Herons. Cooper's Hawks have nested on the island. A Northern Goshawk wintered on the island. Summer and Scarlet tanagers are fairly regular, flycatchers of many species abound, and several species of swallows nest under the lagoon bridges. Jackson Park's lagoons and the connected La Rabida Harbor on Lake Michigan have attracted many duck species, including all three mergansers, most puddle ducks, Harlequin Duck, Brant, King Eider, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Interesting fly-overs include Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Northern Gannett.

Of particular note are the suggestions of the South LakeFront Coalition to improve access along the Hyde Park lake-front. Several beaches, such as 63rd Street Beach, are difficult to get to because there is no car access to the narrow ribbon of park east of Lake Shore Drive. Birders and other users who want to get into the lakeside parks legally (there are some illegal ways), now have to park west of Lake Shore Drive, proceed to the infrequent pedestrian over-passes, and then walk or cycle to the beach they want to scan.

Middle Lakefront Changes

The biggest news for the middle portion of the Chicago lakefront is the move of Lake Shore Drive's northbound lanes to the west of Soldier Field. The lanes will be moved from Balbo Drive to 12th Street, creating 10 new acres of parkland. Granted, much of the new park is now a sea of asphalt parking lots, but once funding is procured, the paving will be removed and the park added to the system north of McCormick Place. Plans for the areas south of McCormick Place as well as the rest of what is known as Burnham Park are not firm. Birders would love to see the area south of McCormick Place, which hosted an Ash-throated Flycatcher the fall of 1995 (see article in this issue), remain relatively untouched. Planting

could be improved to encourage more bird stopovers south to 31st Street. Parking access could be better.

McCormick Place may be the best place in Illinois for *Ammodrammus* sparrows, said Mandell, who has recorded high counts of Sharp-tailed Sparrows (27 in a single day) along the weedy edge and among the boulders of the crumbling Lake Michigan seawall between McCormick Place and 31st Street. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows are also comparatively common along this stretch of lakefront. Other species seen feeding in the area or found dead at the foot of McCormick Place's huge plate glass windows include Yellow and Black rails, Lark Bunting, and Whimbrel. Birds seen on Lake Michigan from McCormick Place include a Red-throated Loon, masses of fly-by ducks and gulls, an Ivory Gull and Eared Grebe in Burnham Harbor on the convention center's north side.

The fight is on now for the future of the 100-acre Meigs Field. Mayor Daley wants to close Meigs Field to aviation traffic in September 1996 and convert it into yet another park with substantial wildlife habitat. Adding Meigs Field to the Chicago Park District system, along with the land reclaimed by the westward move of Lakeshore Drive, will wrap Burnham Harbor in some 110 new acres of park and bird habitat.

Daley has appointed a panel, headed by his wife, to study the airport conversion. Daley, who has said many times how much he "loves trees," said he would like an environmental education center and wildlife habitat as center points of the Meigs Field conversion. Some birders worry about the loss of Snowy Owl habitat, since Meigs Field is the one reliable place in the Chicago area for this winter visitor. Human activity may disturb the owls when the fences around the 80-acre airfield are removed, but except for crazed birders, not many people venture to that part of the lakefront from December through January. Snowy Owls have a penchant for airfields, probably because they are undisturbed by foot traffic there, but the attraction of a large parkland, with plenty of food sources from new plantings for prey species right next to the water will hopefully keep the owls coming to Chicago. And the gain of 100 acres of well-planted natural areas will be a huge boon for migrating passerines.

A Short-eared Owl finds a quiet haven at the Bird Sanctuary in Lincoln Park along Lake Michigan. Photo taken 28 March 1993 by Kanae Hirabayashi.

There are, of course, controversies surrounding such radical land use changes in an intensely urban setting. The Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, and the Shedd Aquarium situated along the lakeshore, reportedly want to see a substantial increase in the concessions available on the museum campus west and north of Burnham Harbor to better compete with the jazzy revamp of Navy Pier. These amenities might encourage more people to visit the area.

Rather than be overly worried about concession developments on the museum complex, birders should perhaps be encouraged by positive changes at the more northerly Olive Park located where Ohio Street dead ends at the lake, just north of Navy Pier and west of the water filtration plant.

With the intense redevelopment of Navy Pier as a major attraction directly south, the Park District was careful in its relandscaping of Olive Park. All parking areas have been removed from the park's western edges, and paved trails have been added to control pedestrian and bike traffic. In addition, more bushes and low vegetation were planted. These new developments make Olive Park an even better migrant trap. Since last year, post-restoration, Marshall Keig, a local birder whose condominium overlooks Ohio Street Beach, brought his Olive Park list to an all-time high - 100 species. Keig predicts even better numbers and variety as the newly planted trees get established. Most of the trees in Olive Park's fenced in bird sanctuary are hardy locusts, which are very late to leaf out, making the park the easiest place on the lakefront to see warblers in the tree tops. Olive Park's trees are only greening when Montrose and Waveland Bird Sanctuaries turn into crippling, neck-craning torture chambers for birders seeking warblers.

Almost every warbler of common occurrence has appeared at Ol-

ive Park. The woody sanctuary usually holds roosting immature Black-crowned Night-Herons in the summer. Tree, Barn, and Rough-winged swallows are common nesters in nearby building eaves which use Olive Park's open meadow for hunting. The same meadow has hosted Cassin's, Sharp-tailed, Harris', Henslow's, and Clay-colored sparrows. Least Bitterns, Virginia Rails, and Soras haunt the shrub islands and the sanctuary. Peregrine Falcons hunt the park year-round and accipiters cruise the passerine visitors during migration. Chicago's most recent Royal Tern was seen lounging on the Ohio Street Beach at the north side of the park. Other exciting Navy Pier-Olive Park birds include Sabine's Gull and Groove-billed Ani.

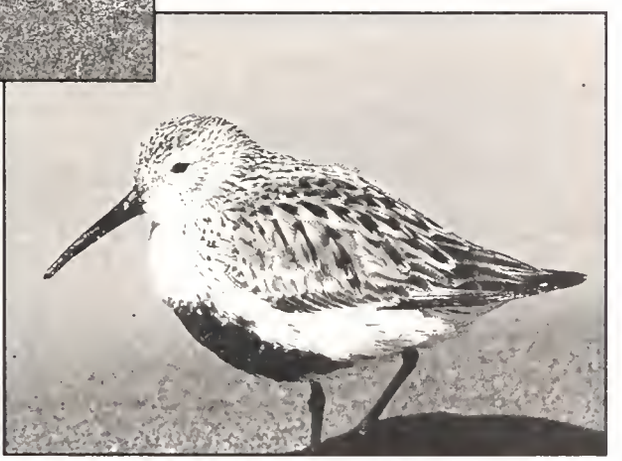
Lincoln Park and Northern Beaches

A coalition of environmental, community, and historical groups worked with the Chicago Park District and other public agencies to create a master plan for restoration and enhancement for all of Lincoln Park's green space, stretching from Oak Street on the south to north of Hollywood Avenue. The Lincoln Park Master Plan provides a working blueprint for major park enhancements. The impressive document identifies areas of major historic and natural interest and makes broad recommendations for preservation and redevelopment. The word restoration could be a misnomer since Lincoln Park was originally a swampy dunal community and urban land pressures won't allow a reversion to pre-settlement conditions. But the master plan emphasizes the need to landscape and redevelop the parks for wildlife protection.

Laura Ronneberg, program director for Friends of the Parks, an umbrella group concerned with Lincoln Park issues, said the document is broad in its suggestions for park changes. Implementation of individual projects is left to the Chicago Park District, with input and impetus from citizens' advisory groups. The master plan suggests sound wildlife habitat and conservation guidelines centering on landscaping to provide food, shelter, and relative isolation for migrant and nesting birds.

Major wildlife areas are identified at the South Lagoon, the South Pond, Lincoln Park Zoo, the Sanctuary at Waveland, and at Montrose Point. These areas will receive special landscaping enhancements and maintenance to improve their productivity as ecological zones. The watery areas may be dredged and emergent vegetation will be re-introduced to encourage marsh development. Human use and abuse of the park will be controlled by design features such as fencing, re-routing of bike, in-line skate, and pedestrian traffic, and through better patrol enforcement by Chicago police and park district staff.

Sanderling at Montrose Beach. Photo taken in May 1994 by Robert Hughes.



Dunlin at Montrose Beach, May 1994. Photo by Robert Hughes.

Up and down the lakefront, green parkland acres, with better wildlife plantings, will be added in bits and pieces. Parking lots and old building structures will be removed from many parks, including from Wilson to Lawrence avenues, at the Foster Avenue entrance to the lake front parks, along the lake front from Montrose Avenue to Belmont Avenue, and at many other spots south to Oak Street. The North Pond Task Force, a citizens' advisory group, is working on a restoration plan for this beautiful pond in Lincoln Park. The group is trying to balance the needs of the park's human neighbors and residents with migratory wildlife.

Human abuse at the park at the end of Montrose Avenue already seems to have abated since the closure of the parking lot at the base of the fish hook pier. The pavement has been removed along the seawall and new grassy plantings, interspersed with tree and shrub islands, are being planned. Enhancing park plantings will increase the likelihood of getting even more of the great sparrows which often haunt the very edge of the lake and the park, east of the Magic Hedge, a scruffy hedgerow which attracts great migrant birds because it is on a point of land which juts well out into Lake Michigan.

The Magic Hedge, at the northeastern corner of Montrose Harbor, has received significant planting attention in the past few years. Brown of the Park District said the whole Montrose area will be significantly enhanced under the CPD's eco-

logical restoration program. Once again, native species will be used to provide cover and food for birds and other wildlife in the area. Brown intends to use a donation from the Audubon Society and restoration funds to replace trees within the Hedge cut down by vandals during the winter. Montrose, with its new rough, unmown grassy dunes, thicker shrubbery in the hedge and nearby planting groups, now more than ever deserves its international reputation. Birders can expect to see every regularly occurring migrant from warblers to sparrows to owls to raptors. The habitat ranges from open Lake Michigan swells, to a protected inner harbor, to a woody orchard, to a scrubby hedgerow, to short grass moorland, to long grass dunes, to a sandy beach with plenty of organic flotsam.

Many species of gulls have been seen in the winter, including Mew, Iceland, California, Thayer's, and Great and Lesser Black-backed. The star floats in Montrose's inner harbor and the beach (when the winds are right) are a major collection point for migrating gulls in late winter and early spring. Many diving ducks and grebes use the harbor in winter and during migration. Spectacular vagrants recorded at Montrose include Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Tri-colored Heron, Rock Wren, and Groove-billed Ani. Montrose hosted a Purple Sandpiper on its rocky seawalls one late fall day.

After bruising damage to lake retaining walls and adjacent parkland from heavy storm swells in early March, the Federal legislature is getting serious about funding $125 million worth of repairs recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After the repair work, Chicago Park District staff will replant the areas right at the lake's edge, good news for migrant fall-out days. Landscape enhancements are also planned at Waveland and its Bird Sanctuary, at Foster Beach and the Foster Meadows just west of the sands, at the Lincoln Park Conservatory, at the Fullerton entrance to Lake Shore Drive, and even the grassy strip between the bike path and Lake Shore Drive at North Avenue Beach.

The Next Century

If all the grand schemes laid out above come to fruition, the 21st century birder will have far more bird-friendly habitat to scout within half a mile from one of the nation's major flyways. The parks will provide much better respite from both the natural hazards migrant birds face on their north-south treks and the urban stress human lakefront dwellers contend with everyday. Hundreds of acres of parkland will be preserved for the whole city and the many birders from across the state and country who flock to Chicago's lakefront for warblers and waterfowl. The potential for brand new hotspots is tremendous as old factories are torn down and new migrant traps planted and nurtured.

But like everything in Chicago, such a process needs a public push and continued support to make it happen. Cities have a way of concentrating on immediate issues - crime, poverty, education, transportation, and commerce. Birds and their conservation usually don't make the city's priority list unless active birding citizens and environmentalists make noise and offer their talent and energy to shepherd park projects through the system.

Many of the Chicago birders you know are already in the trenches, working with the Chicago Park District to get these grand schemes off the map and onto the ground. If you love lakefront birding, you might need to take up the challenge, too.

The Snow Bunting is one of many migrants that stop at Montrose Beach during their journeys in fall and spring. Photo taken 8 Nov. 1993 by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Author's and Editor's Note: We encourage you to get involved with these exciting lakefront projects. For information about lakefront volunteer and activist activities, please call: Laura Ronneberg, Friends of the Parks, (312)922-3307; Julie Sacco, Openlands Project,(312) 427-4256; or Christine Williamson, Sierra Club, (312)935-8439. Also, look for birding guides on some of these lakeshore hot spots in future issues of Meadowlark.

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First Juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher in Illinois

by John O'Brien

Juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher, McCormick Place, Cook Co., 31 Aug. 1995. Photo by John O'Brien.

About 8 a.m. on 31 Aug. 1995, I discovered a juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) just south of the McCormick Place Convention Center along the Chicago lakefront. I watched and photographed the flycatcher for about 15 minutes. Several other birders relocated it later that day and on 1 Sept. 1995, the last day it was seen. The bird remained largely within the confines of two low clumps of bushes. On the second day I noted one or two Great Crested Flycatchers (*M. crinitus*) in the surrounding locust trees, occasionally providing good comparative views. The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) has accepted this record.

This is the third report of an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Illinois. The first was seen 2 to 9 Nov. 1973 and collected on 9 Nov., in Washington Park, Springfield (Bohlen 1975). A second bird, seen on 4 Sept. 1994 in Jackson Park, Chicago, by Paul Clyne is still under review by IORC.

Ash-throated Flycatchers have been recorded as fall vagrants about 100 times in the states and provinces east of the Mississippi River (Murphy 1982, Clyne 1996 - unpublished; plus my review of recent records in *American Birds*). These records span the period 4 Sept. to 26 Dec; an additional eight have been seen in January and February. Nearly all winter records have been from Gulf Coast states where Ash-throated Flycatchers are regular winterers east to Louisiana (Stedman 1994). Only 10 records exist from inland localities in the east: three each in Illinois and Ontario (James et al. 1976, Weir 1983), and one each in Michigan (Tessen 1995), Minnesota (Tessen 1991), Quebec (David and Gosselin 1978), and West Virginia (Hall 1991). Strongly coastal distribution of vagrants has been pointed out earlier by Murphy (1982).

Due to the difficulty of aging basic plumaged individuals in the field and hand (Pyle et al. 1987), the age of most birds is unknown. The Springfield specimen was a female in basic plumage; its fully ossified skull suggests it was an adult. The Jackson Park bird appeared to be an adult in fresh basic plumage. My sighting involved a bird in juvenal plumage, with visible body molt in progress. I found only one previous record of an eastern vagrant in juvenal plumage, a female collected on Block Island, RI, on 15 Sept. 1960 (Baird 1962). This bird was in very worn plumage and only beginning its post-juvenal molt, but it had a completely ossified skull. Simon (1958) collected a specimen and reported it as an "immature", but did not specify the plumage or how the bird was aged.

My 31 Aug. date is the earliest eastern North America record, and seems unlikely for this traditionally late fall vagrant. However, this pattern may not reflect the whole story. Paul Clyne has prepared an exhaustive summary of extralimital fall Ash-throated Flycatchers in the U.S. and Canada in support of his 4 Sept 1994 record. Clyne noted two distinct patterns of occurrence. The majority of eastern records fall between mid-October and late December. The first Illinois record, 2-9 Nov., 1973 (Bohlen 1975), fits this pattern. Clyne notes, however, that the majority of extralimital records in the west, closer to its breeding range, are in August and September. The present record and Clyne's may be more closely related to this latter pattern.

The ensuing sections provide a description of the McCormick Place Ash-throated Flycatcher and notes on its identification and age. The description is taken from my notes and David Johnson's notes as well as

conversations with other observers.

Size: In overall length, the Ash-throated was slightly smaller than the Great Crested Flycatcher. This was only apparent when the two were sitting together in a tree, as happened once when I was watching them. The body bulk seemed about the same in the two, neither seeming particularly "slimmer" than the other. However, the bill of the Ash-throated was distinctly smaller than that of a Great Crested, as will be described below. This difference in bill size was readily apparent at all times.

Bill and head: The bill was shorter, narrower, and more tapered when viewed from the side than that of a Great Crested Flycatcher. The bill was one-half to five-eighths the length of the head. Both upper and lower jaws tapered nearly uniformly from the base to the tip, unlike the thicker and more blunt-tipped bill of a Great Crested Flycatcher. The bill was also narrower at the base than a Great Crested Flycatcher's. The bill was black, without any pale coloration on the mandible. The gape was swollen, fleshy, and dull fleshy-pink, indicative of a juvenal bird. Johnson termed the gape and mouth lining "orangeish."

The head had a notably square-crested look. The cap was warm brown with a bit of olive overtone. This color contrasted with the cooler grayish-olive of the sides of the head and the forehead. The nape was grayer than the sides of the head, though the colors blended together smoothly. The cheeks were notably dull gray without olive or brown tones.

Underparts: The throat was a very pale gray color, appearing whitish in some lighting conditions, and always clearly paler than a Great Crested's throat. The throat and breast of the Ash-throated were essentially the same in color and contrasted very little with the belly, unlike the sharp contrast between the breast and belly evident on Great Crested Flycatchers. The belly was largely white with a faint yellowish tone on the sides and lower belly. This color was notably less yellow than that of the Great Crested.

Back and wings: The back was fairly uniformly grayish-olive, slightly darker than the nape, and distinctly paler and grayer than that of a Great Crested. Both greater and lesser wing coverts were broadly tipped with pale buffy, forming two conspicuous wingbars. The primaries in the folded wing showed bright rufous edging while the secondaries were edged with pale yellow. The tertials were dull, dark brown with broad, pale straw-colored edges. The primaries extended an estimated 1-to-1.5 cm beyond the secondaries and tertials.

Tail pattern: The tail showed features of both adult and juvenal patterns, and was heavily worn. The tail feathers, from above, showed dark brownish centers with a slight rufous overtone. The central tail feathers were fairly broadly edged with rufous, a diagnostic juvenal pattern. There were also rufous edges to the other tail feathers which gave the tail an overall rufous tone that was more prominent when viewed edge-on than from directly behind. One notable feature of the tail, as seen from above, was the two zones of paler brownish coloration that crossed the entire tail as bands. These growth zones suggest that all of the feathers were grown in at the same time, as would be expected of a juvenal bird. From below, the tail showed extensive rufous coloration, slightly paler than in a Great Crested Flycatcher. Once, when the tail was folded, the brown of the outer webs of each outer rectrix extended to the tip of the feather, and expanded to encompass the tip of the inner web. This tail pattern was clear when I saw the bird closely in cloudy weather, but was not apparent in bright light. However, at one point in bright light, several of us saw the Ash-throated from behind with light shining through the spread tail, and the pattern of dark at the tips of the feathers was remarkably clear. Dark-tipped rectrices are considerably less obvious in adults than they are in immatures.

Juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher, McCormick Place, Cook Co., 31 Aug. 1995. Photos by John O'Brien.

Behavior: The Ash-throated Flycatcher behaved differently than did the nearby Great Crested Flycatchers. The bird tended to stay at a height of 3 to 6 feet in low bushes, sitting still, then making short, low flights. It picked either insects or fruits off the bushes, and it also

caught insects on the ground by diving down from a bush. Occasionally, it perched high in the locust trees with the Great Crested Flycatchers, but it preferred low perches. No calls were heard.

Identification of *Myiarchus* flycatchers: The *Myiarchus* flycatchers present a notoriously difficult identification problem. Distinguishing between species requires a great deal of caution and attention to details. Six species of *Myiarchus* have been recorded in North America: four breeders, Great Crested, Brown-crested (*M. tyrannulus*), Ash-throated, and Dusky-capped (*M. tuberculifer*), as well as two tropical vagrants, La Sagra's (*M. sagrae*) and Nutting's (*M. nuttingi*). All of the breeding species have been recorded as long-distance vagrants in North America, so it is important that consideration be given to all possible species when identifying a vagrant.

Observers in Illinois normally have to contend only with Great Crested Flycatcher. Fortunately, this is the most visually distinctive of the North American *Myiarchus*, so detecting other species is relatively easy for experienced observers. Identification of the Great Crested Flycatcher can generally be based on the body plumage color. Great Cresteds have a medium gray throat and breast that contrast sharply with the variably bright lemon yellow belly. The head, cheeks, and back are fairly uniform olive. The thick bill has a curved culmen, a pale base to the mandible, and a rarely-seen, light orange mouth lining. Rectrix pattern (in all plumages after the postjuvenal molt) consists of a brown outer web and a rufous inner web; the rufous color extends to the tip of the feather and touches the shaft or is separated from it by a brown stripe no more than 2 mm wide (Phillips and Lanyon, 1970; Pyle et al., 1987).

The upperparts of the Ash-throated Flycatcher are more grayish-brown with a variable olive tone. The cheeks are gray, contrasting with the brownish cap, and extend back to merge with a grayish nuchal collar (Lanyon 1961). The throat and breast are pale grayish, showing little contrast with the pale yellow belly. As seen from the side, the bill is relatively thin and tapered; the culmen relatively straight. The mandible is usually black or dark brown at the base, and the mouth lining is pinkish-flesh. The rectrix pattern, in postjuvenal plumage, is diagnostic; on at least the outermost rectrix the brown of the outer web extends across most or all of the tip of the rufous inner web. The inner rectrices may or may not have this pattern. The reader is referred to Lanyon 1961 for full treatment of this complex character.

While the characteristics listed eliminate the Great Crested Flycatcher, a much more difficult problem is presented with the separation of Ash-throated from Brown-crested and Nutting's flycatchers. The Brown-crested Flycatcher wanders in winter to southern Louisiana and Florida (Phillips and Lanyon, 1970), and is not impossible to imagine as a vagrant in Illinois. The Brown-crested Flycatcher is generally thought of as the largest *Myiarchus* in our area, with the thickest and widest bill. However, most field guide measurements, e.g. the National Geographic Society (1987) and even Pyle et al. (1987), consider only the western North and Middle American race (*M. t. magister*). The race *cooperi* which breeds in southern Texas and eastern Mexico and has been collected in Louisiana, is significantly smaller. Most of its measurements overlap extensively with those of the Ash-throated (Lanyon, 1960), and its plumage pattern is quite similar. The Brown crested Flycatcher has a unique tail pattern, with a brown stripe along the shaft of each feather covering the outer and part of the inner web but not spreading to cover the tip (Phillips and Lanyon 1970). As with the other species, this pattern is not applicable to juvenal plumage. The Brown-crested is generally brighter yellow below than the Ash-throated, and has a browner face. Even the small race *M. t. cooperi* has a thicker bill, with a more curved culmen and wider base. The mouth lining is pale flesh-colored. The thin bill, gray face, and very pale yellow belly suggest that the McCormick Place bird was not a Brown-crested Flycatcher.

Finally, consideration must be given to Nutting's Flycatcher (*M. nuttingi*). Nutting's Flycatcher is a tropical Middle American flycatcher ranging from central Sonora to northwestern Costa Rica (Lanyon, 1961, Howell and Webb 1995), and has been recorded at least twice in Arizona, with other probable reports (Bowers and Dunning 1987). Although Nutting's is an extraordinarily unlikely candidate for vagrancy to northern Illinois, it is worthwhile to evaluate the McCormick Place bird in this context. Nutting's is very similar to Ash-throated but is slightly smaller (with extensive overlap in measurements) and rounder-winged (Lanyon 1961). It

can be distinguished in fresh plumage by its browner cheeks that do not contrast with the cap, lack of a gray nuchal collar, orange mouth lining, and different secondary color and tail pattern. The tail pattern is somewhat like that of a Great Crested in having the rufous color of the inner webs extending to the tail tip. Some individuals do show brown rectrix tips like an Ash-throated, but always have a broader stripe of brown along the feather shaft compared with the Ash-throated (Lan-yon, 1961). Howell and Webb (1995) state that Nutting's has more rufous-edged outer secondaries that contrast very little with the primaries.

The bird observed had gray cheeks lacking contrast with the throat, a gray nuchal collar, and yellowish secondary feather edges. This is a typical Ash-throated pattern while Nutting's has brown cheeks with a gray throat, no nuchal collar, and rufous-edged outer secondaries. However, Bowers and Dunning (1987) note that Nutting's brown cheeks may become rather gray by December or January due to wear.

Age: All *Myiarchus* flycatchers have a juvenal plumage that differs from the adult plumage in several details, and is generally characterized by tail feathers with extensive rufous edges. The juvenal plumage is lost in a complete postjuvenal molt, so that juvenals cannot then be told from adults. However, the postjuvenal molt (and the complete prebasic molt in adults) is split, so that the juvenal flight feathers (wing and tail) are retained through migration and molted on the wintering grounds (Bent 1942, Pyle et al., 1987). The McCormiek Place flycatcher was a juvenal based on the wide rufous edgings of all the rectrices and upper tail coverts, as well as by the presence of a swollen fleshy gape. At the time of the first sighting, under heavily overcast skies, I did not appreciate the rufous edgings on the tail and thought the bird was an adult based on the extensive tail wear, and molt on the head, upper back, and lower breast. Based on subsequent sightings and discussions with several other observers, we concluded that the bird was in very worn juvenal plumage molting into first basic plumage.

The above details support the identification of the McCormiek Place bird as a juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher. Illinois observers are encouraged to carefully observe all *Myiarchus* flycatchers.

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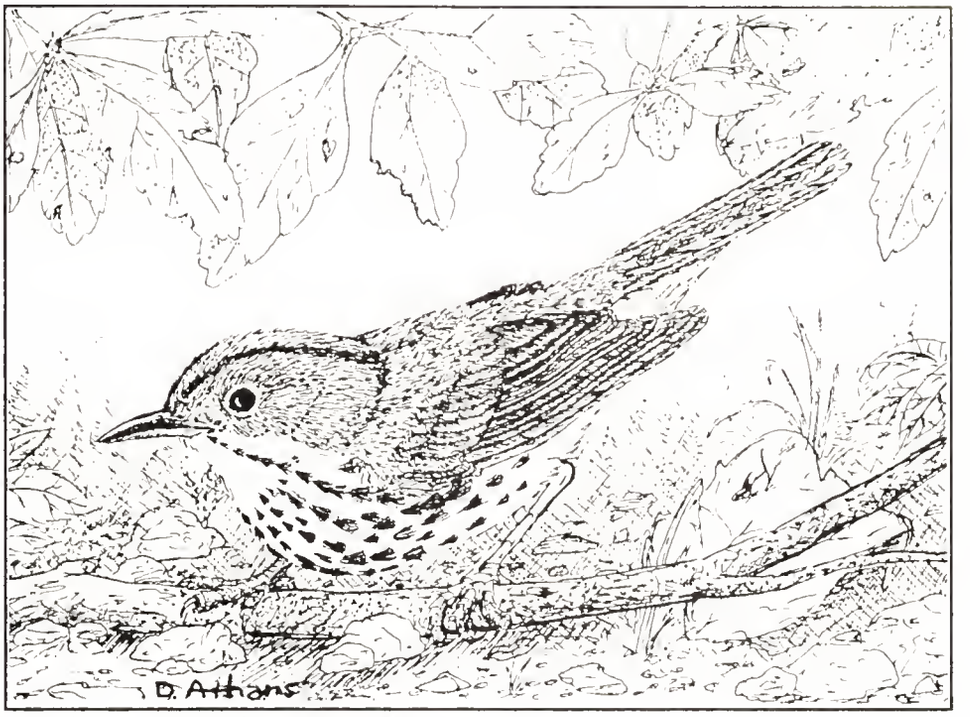
Breeding Birds of the Ryerson Conservation Area, Lake County

1 June 1995 - 12 July 1995

by Sheryl De Vore



Ovenbird drawing by David Athans.

Woodland songbird numbers, specifically neotropical migrants, are declining due to forest fragmentation on their breeding grounds in Illinois and the Midwest as well as habitat destruction of the species' wintering grounds in the tropical rainforests (Askins et: al. 1990). Ryerson Conservation Area (Ryerson Woods) in Lake County, Illinois, with its roughly 400 acres of contiguous woods is one of the few remaining areas in the northern two-thirds of the state that provide woodland habitat for nesting neotropical forest interior songbirds. In this paper, I report the results of a breeding bird census conducted at Ryerson Woods the summer of 1995 for the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

Methods

To estimate the number of possible breeding pairs of each species at Ryerson Woods, I visited a series of points spread throughout the area (see map). Each point stop was approximately 100 m apart. Birds observed or heard singing at each stop during a six-minute visit were recorded. Birds observed or heard singing at the same spot at least twice and at least 10 days apart were considered possible breeders. Each survey began at approximately 5 a.m. and lasted until approximately 9 a.m.

Point Count Survey A, with a total of 28 stops, followed a course through upland and riverine forests on the eastern portion of the preserve (see map) and was surveyed on 1, 9, and 17 June 1995. Point Count Survey B, with a total of 18 stops, followed a course through river backwater areas and former farm field which has recently been planted with prairie grasses, and was surveyed on: 4, 10,14, and 21 June. In addition, spot checks through certain areas were made on 21 June, 23 June, and 12 July 1995.

Results

The state-threatened Veery and rapidly declining Ovenbird were found in only one area of Ryerson Woods. Veeries were only heard or seen in the upland forests near areas A6, A7, and A8. Ovenbirds were found through areas A5 to A14. Both these species are ground nesters and require layered forests in which to nest. Approximately 10 years ago, Veeries, Ovenbirds, and Wood Thrushes were considered to be among the most common breeding species at Ryerson (Hickman 1993). Only two pairs of Veeries, five pairs of Ovenbirds, and six pairs of Wood Thrushes were the most that probably nested at Ryerson Woods in 1995. (Table 1). Upland forests adjacent to riverine habitats also attracted three or four pairs of Yellow-throated Vireos, another rare and declining songbird.

Many of the forest species that attempt to nest at Ryerson are in serious trouble in Illinois. Between 1966 and 1991, Ovenbird populations declined by 70.7 percent; Acadian

RYERSON CONSERVATION AREA

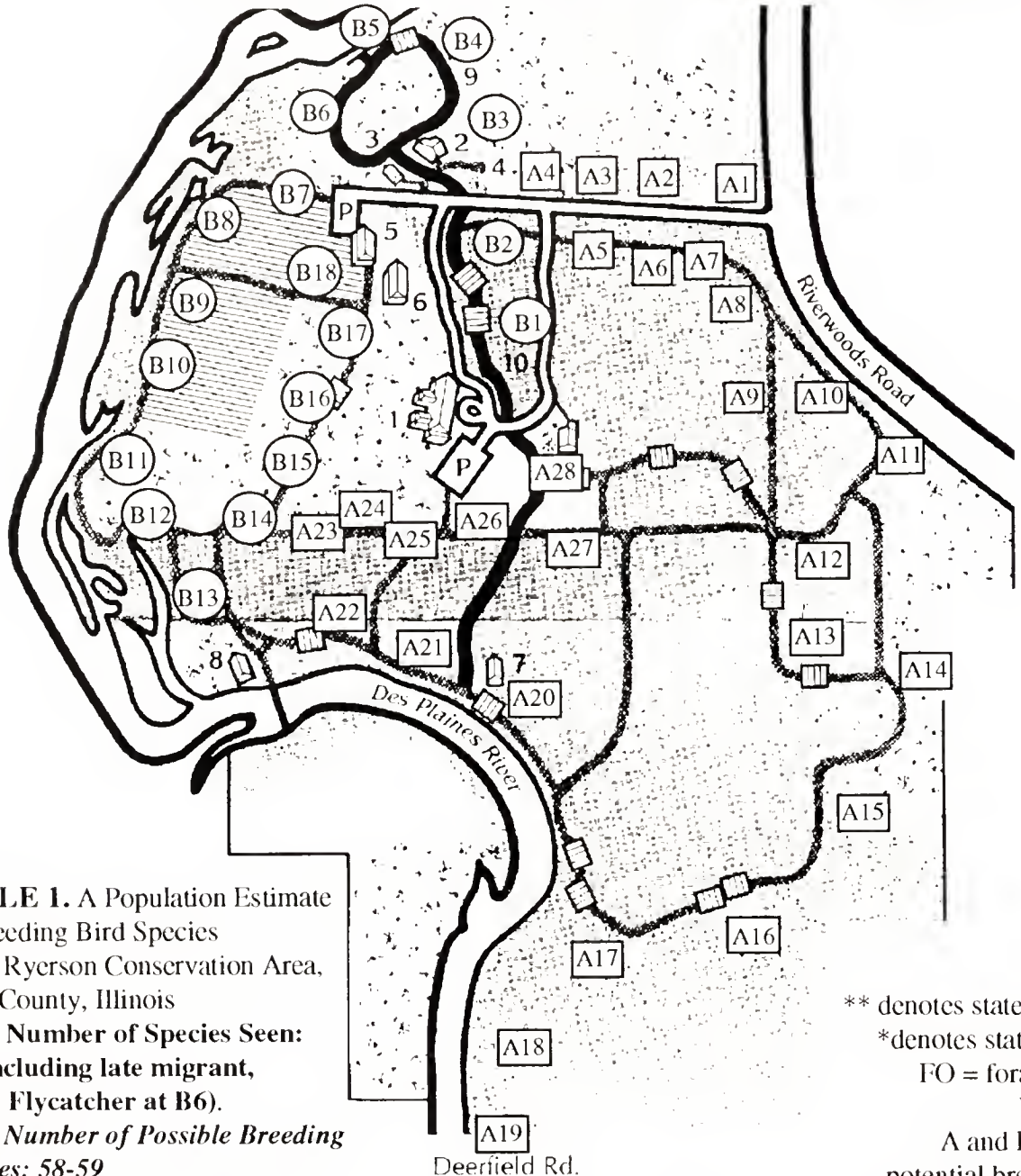


TABLE 1. A Population Estimate of Breeding Bird Species at the Ryerson Conservation Area, Lake County, Illinois
Total Number of Species Seen: 65 (including late migrant, Least Flycatcher at B6).
Total Number of Possible Breeding Species: 58-59
(Spotted Sandpiper questionable)

Key to Table
** denotes state-endangered species
*denotes state-threatened species
FO = foraging or flying over;
VC= Visitors Center
A and B refer to location of potential breeders at stop points.

SPECIES	*Breeding Pairs*	*FO*	*Locations*
Double-crested Cormorant**		x	B6
Great Blue Heron		x	A20,24
Canada Goose	5		B6
Mallard	2		B6,14
Wood Duck	2 - 3		B6,8
Cooper's Hawk**	1		A25
Red-shouldered Hawk**	1		A1
Red-tailed Hawk	1		A22
Spotted Sandpiper	1 (?)	x (?)	A21
Rock Dove	3 - 4		B7
Mourning Dove	3		A1,28,B7
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1		A26
Great Horned Owl	1		A25
Chimney Swift		x	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1		A12
Pileated Woodpecker		x	B1
Northern Flicker	3 - 4		B5,7,A
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5		A5,18,28, B5,6
Downy Woodpecker	5 - 6		A2,17,18,24, B5,12
Hairy Woodpecker	2		A18,22
Eastern Kingbird	1		B6
Great Crested Flycatcher	5		A4,11,25, B3,13
Eastern Phoebe	2		B4,14
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7		A6,7,12,18, B2,4,12
Acadian Flycatcher	1		A5
Barn Swallow	5 - 7		B7
Purple Martin		2	A5
Tree Swallow	1		A25
American Crow	4		A3,12, B3,12
Blue Jay	9		A7,13,14,18,21 23,24 B4,11

Flycatcher by 66.7 percent; Yellow-billed Cuckoo by 56.8 percent, Ruby-throated Hummingbird by 48.2 percent, Eastern Wood-pewee by 36.5 percent, Red-eyed Vireo by 36.5 percent, and Great Crested Flycatcher by 34.9 percent (Herkert et al. 1993). All of these birds were found in suitable breeding habitat during the breeding season at Ryerson Woods. All but the Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, and Great Crested Flycatchers were recorded in extremely low numbers of breeding pairs (Table 1).

A layered forest with many levels of plants is crucial for these species. But deer over-browsing and the invasion of alien plants such as garlic mustard and buckthorn have greatly reduced this layering. These alien species lower the plant diversity, a necessary component to attract a variety of breeding birds. To increase plant diversity, Lake County Forest Preserve District staff members as well as volunteers periodically remove buckthorn and garlic mustard. A deer management program to curb over-browsing of shrubby layers has been conducted at Ryerson, although not every year, since 1991. When areas are over-browsed, it makes it much easier for predators such as raccoons to get to the ground bird's nest and eggs (Herkert 1993).

Many of the forest-interior species such as Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, and Scarlet Tanager are plagued by the Brown-headed Cowbird, which lays its eggs in other birds' nests. Interior forest species traditionally did not have to contend with cowbirds because there was enough interior forest for them to keep out the cowbirds. Cowbirds were heard or seen generally throughout Ryerson Woods.

The forested riverine habitat attracts many migrating birds; more than 25 species of warblers are recorded each spring during May at Ryerson Woods. During the breeding season, Canada Geese, Mallards, and Wood Ducks enjoy the riverine area as a place to rear their young. Wood Duck boxes set up by the Lake County Forest Preserve District staff attracted several pairs of Wood Ducks to breed during the census survey. A Prothonotary Warbler nested at Ryerson several years ago (pers. comm. Eric Walters), but none were found in 1995. Installing Prothonotary Warbler boxes may attract this species, which is seen along the river during migration, to remain to nest.

Grassland species are also sus-

Breeding Pairs refers to approximate number of birds of one species that potentially bred in Ryerson. Please note that Red-shouldered Hawk successfully nested just outside Ryerson, but is included because of its state-endangered status as well as the fact that it has nested at Ryerson in the past (1993,1994) and chooses this area because of the large contiguous woodland habitat provided by Ryerson.

SPECIES	*Breeding Pairs*	*FO*	*Locations*
Black-capped Chickadee	13		A5,10,11,14, 17,19,23,26, B1,2,5,7,15
Tufted Titmouse	1		A5
White-breasted Nuthatch	5 - 6		A8,10,12, B5,7,8
House Wren	3		B8,9,11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7		A1,2,5,8,12, B4,18
Gray Catbird	7		B5,6,8,10,12, 16,17
Eastern Bluebird	3		A3,B3
American Robin	12+		A1,2,8,9,20, 11,19,23,24, B1, 2,14,15
Veery *	2 - 3		A6,11
Wood Thrush	6		A8,11,28, B4,11,16
Cedar Waxwing	2 - 4		A10,23,B3,5
Yellow-throated Vireo	3 - 4		A23,11,B2
Warbling Vireo	1 - 2		B6,17
Red-eyed Vireo	10 - 13		A3,7,8,12,15, 16,17, 21,B1, 12,13,14,15,
Black-throated Green Warbler	1 - 3		A8,10,13
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1		B11

SPECIES	*Breeding Pairs*	*FO*	*Locations*
Blue-winged Warbler	2		B4,12
Common Yellowthroat	4 - 5		A1,20, B4,11,17
Ovenbird	5		A5,7,12,14,20
Red-winged Blackbird	5 - 6		A12,B7,8
Brown-headed Cowbird	6+		A12,13,18,B2, 5,14, 17,18
European Starling	3		A3,B6,11
Baltimore Oriole	4 - 5		A10,28, B6,12,18
Scarlet Tanager	8		A3,4,6,7,12, 15,B2,15
House Sparrow	4		B4,7,VC
Northern Cardinal	7		A1,51,19,23, B5,6,16
House Finch	1 - 2		B7
American Goldfinch	2 - 6		A11,20,22,26, B6,15
Indigo Bunting	13		A1,3,4,6,11, 12,14,17,20, 26,B4,12,15
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5		A25, B5,6,10,15
Chipping Sparrow	1		B7
Field Sparrow	1		B7
Song Sparrow	5 - 7		A1,24,B8,9,11
Savannah Sparrow	1		B18

ceptible to predation and parasitism due to grassland fragmentation; their numbers are declining as well (Herkert 1993). Grassland species nesting at Ryerson have minimal habitat requirements. These include Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. A single nesting pair of Savannah Sparrows was recorded at Ryerson Woods. This species is sensitive to habitat fragmentation (Herkert 1993). One Savannah Sparrow does not make a viable population; however, the area has just begun to be managed, so more of this species may nest there in coming years. The area is large enough to support Eastern Meadowlarks, none of which were seen on the property - and these are moderately sensitive to habitat fragmentation (Herkert 1993).

Ryerson Woods. Photo by Peggy Neuhaus.

Shrub and secondary growth areas represent transitional zones between two ecosystems and are often filled with bird life. At Ryerson Woods, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Gray Catbirds were the more common shrub and secondary growth nesters. Two rarer species, the Chestnut-sided Warbler (one pair) and Blue-winged Warbler (two pairs) were found at the preserve.

Finally, due to the efforts of Cliff Miller and Paul Baker, Ryerson Wood's Eastern Bluebird population is thriving. Baker and Miller placed bluebird boxes at Ryerson Woods seven years ago. Baker continues to monitor and clean them each year from early spring through late summer. Three pairs of Eastern Bluebirds successfully reared young at Ryerson in 1995; two of them reared two broods.

Ryerson Woods' forested areas combined with secondary growth shrub areas and newly planted prairies attracted a total of 59 potential breeding bird species between 1 June 1995 and 12 July 1995. These include two state-endangered (Red-shouldered Hawk and Cooper's Hawk) and one state-threatened (Veery) species. Declining forest interior songbirds which probably bred at Ryerson Woods during the study period include Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager. Another highlight was the location of three separate territories of Black-throated Green Warblers, which has not been recorded as nesting in Illinois until last year when two nests were found at Lowden-Miller State Forest in northwestern Illinois (Robinson 1995). No confirmation of nesting was made at Ryerson, but the potential exists for this species to nest here.

While Ryerson Conservation Area is on the small side relative to the amount of habitat neotropical migrants need for breeding, it is nonetheless attractive to these species, and since it is a Lake County Forest Preserve holding, it will hopefully continue to yield interesting summer birding provided the area is managed properly. Indeed, it may be one of the few places left in northern Illinois where these birds can find a place to nest in summer.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Paul Baker, Toby Brown, and Nan Buckardt for providing me with additional information on nesting birds at Ryerson Conservation Area the summer of 1995. Also thanks to W. Douglas Robinson and William Moskoff for helpful comments on earlier drafts.

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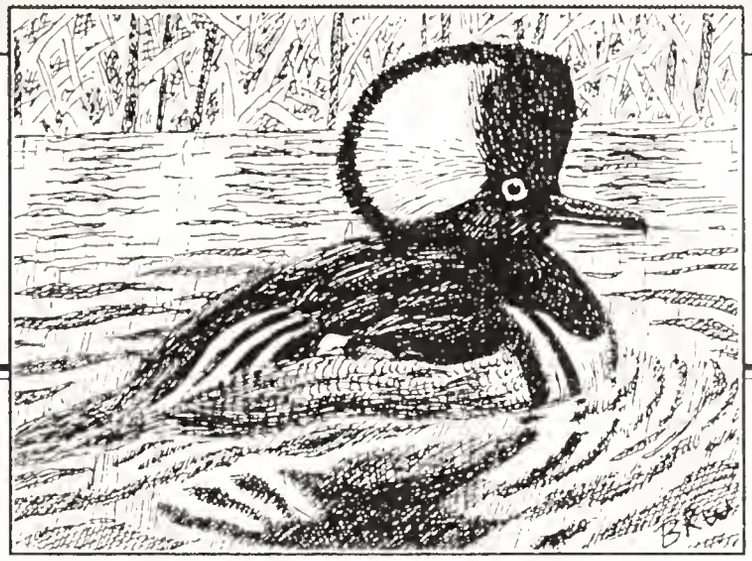


Hooded Merganser drawing by Brian K. Willis.

POPLAR CREEK FOREST PRESERVE

by Judy Mellin

During the past seven years, 169 species of birds have visited the Poplar Creek Forest Preserve in Hoffman Estates, Cook County during migration and the nesting season. Of that, 84 are confirmed breeders, and 6 more are probable breeders. Much of this success is due to restoration of some of the 4,200 acres of land leased out for farming beginning in 1960 by the Cook County Forest Preserve. In 1989, the Forest Preserve entered into a joint arrangement with The Nature Conservancy to return the preserve to its original state. The Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards, a group of active volunteers, have been working to restore the land, concentrating efforts on 600 acres framed on the north by Shoe Factory Road, on the east by Rt. 59. on the south by Golf Rd. (Rt. 58) and on the west by the EJ&E railroad tracks. This area also includes the Shoe Factory Road Prairie, a 9-acre site set aside as a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve.

Our mission was not to restore a garden but to try to recreate an ecosystem. As part of our work, we began listing the creatures who use the land with hopes of managing for their long-term protection. Duane Heaton from Prairie Woods Audubon Society had been monitoring the area as part of the statewide Breeding Bird Atlas project since 1986, so it was a logical leap to continue his work.

The area features three distinct habitats: woodlands including a 40-acre oak savanna, wet areas, and grasslands. Elliott Bennett has surveyed and produced a nesting map the past few years for the site.

WOODLANDS:

Fragmented woodlands can be found in the preserve, but the main restoration work was done on the oak savanna. We cleared brush, burned, and seeded the area which was extremely overgrown with brushy, non-native species. The savanna has provided nesting sites for Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pee-wee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Indigo Bunting. In 1993, we confirmed breeding of a Scarlet Tanager that raised three young with no cowbird parasitism. An article in the *Meadowlark* led us to apply to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Project Tanager study. We participated in this study in 1994 and 1995. Tanagers have been spotted in two of the seven study sites but no young have been seen.

We are hoping to attract a bluebird population back into the savanna as it becomes more open but so far have not confirmed breeding. Adults were observed there in 1993 and five immature were seen in August, 1994.

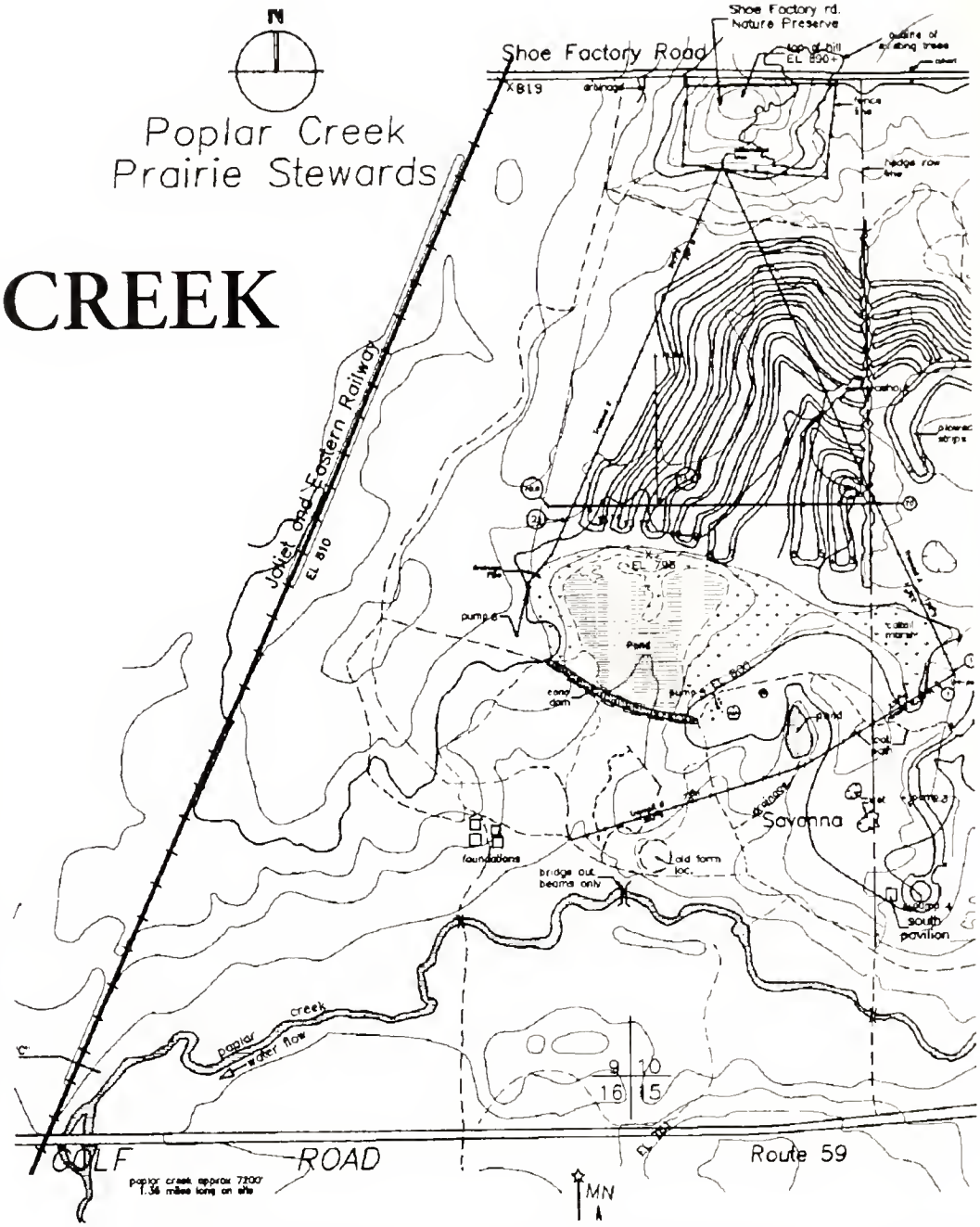
A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen feeding young on the westernmost edge of the savanna in 1993. In 1995, a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler was present here until June 17, but we could not confirm breeding.

Five species of woodpeckers that nest in Illinois have been seen in the savanna and all but the Red-headed have been confirmed as nesting. House Wrens and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks sing all summer long; grosbeaks have been confirmed nesters the past six years. A resident Great Horned Owl has nested in the savanna four of the last six years, and in 1995 moved just across the horse trail (see map). Every January, we begin our hunt and every May we see the young birds but we have never yet seen them on the nest. That quest drives us out every winter.

The Poplar Creek site has been chosen as one of two in Cook County large enough to support Wild Turkeys; a plan has been devised to introduce them here in the future. Low numbers in the last two winters in the areas from which they would be relocated have put the plan on hold for now.

The rest of the wooded areas are difficult to survey because the brush is so dense. We may have more

POPLAR CREEK



wonders lurking in these fragments and just don't know it. The area along the westernmost trail before the railroad tracks (see map) is towhee heaven. As many as 12 singing males are heard each spring and breeding has been confirmed each season. This area also housed nesting Black-billed Cuckoos in 1994 and a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler in June 1993. A singing male Blue-winged Warbler was here as late as 4 June 1995 but breeding was not confirmed. The savanna fragment at the Shoe Factory Road prairie has shown little bird life but did shelter three Eastern Bluebirds in January 1993.

WETLAND AREAS:

In the savanna, an irrigation pond was dug to water the livestock in the area while it was still being farmed. This pond is filled with goldfish and supports a resident Belted Kingfisher. This is a prime fishing site for the Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets that nest at nearby Baker's Lake in Barrington. The pond does not support much in the way of waterfowl, probably because it is enclosed by oaks on all four sides and does not afford a great deal of takeoff space for them.

Poplar Creek itself attracts very little waterfowl. During spring migration, the current tends to run rather quickly and, by fall, the creek frequently contains a very low water level. The area does not support many bugs either so even passerines do not spend much time near it. An Eastern Phoebe does nest under one of the small bridges that crosses the creek. The most diverse area is a wet-weather wetland just north of the concrete dam (see map) built a number of years ago to help prevent flooding in the area. The water table here has dropped so much because of all the development in this area over the last few years. So the deepest the water gets is approximately 4 feet.

When we have had a wet winter, this area attracts Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers along with Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and other shorebirds. We have confirmed nesting of the state-endangered Pied-billed Grebe in four of the last six years and American Coots have used this area in two different years. Tree Swallows and Cedar Waxwings along with Eastern Kingbirds feed

their young from insects caught over the pond called 'Lake Leaky' because of its tendency to go dry in the summer months. Green Herons frequent the area but we have been unable to confirm nesting. We often see Black-crowned Night-Herons from Baker's Lake teaching their young to fish in the shallow areas. An American Bittern was seen in this area in 1991.

If the area dries up early in the year, a totally different type of population is attracted here. In 1994, the flats supported a nesting Bell's Vireo and migrating sparrows, including Sharp-tailed. Huge flocks of migrating White-crowned and White-throated sparrows also use this area if it is dry. Sedge Wrens will nest here rather than in the grasslands during a dry season.

Whether the season is wet or dry, the western fringe of the area attracts a nesting Orchard Oriole. A very disheveled male was seen at the end of the season in 1991 and a nesting pair has been present every year since then. In 1995, nesting Warbling Vireos chose this same area along with Cedar Waxwings. Swamp Sparrows have nested for the last two years here also.

Bobolink at Poplar Creek, July 1995. Photo by Anton Szabados.

GRASSLANDS:

The grassland areas show some of our most concentrated restoration efforts and our most consistent results. The site supports large numbers of grassland nesters and a few spectacular migrants. The Short-eared Owl has been a spring and fall visitor for the last three years. The area is probably too public to support its nesting, but we have not yet explored some large grassy tracts within the 4,200 acre site where the owls might find better conditions. Turkey Vultures that nest at the Max McGraw Nature Center in Elgin hunt over the site all summer. We have confirmed nesting Bobolinks every year except for 1993. We had singing males all summer but the females never arrived. This same situation happened at the Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington (pers. comm. Chuck Wescott) but nesting pairs were back in large numbers the next year. The population seems unaffected by the frequent burns in the main nesting area at the foot of Shoe Factory Road and, in 1995, the Bobolinks moved back into an area where they were inadvertently mowed out in 1992. Common Yellowthroats are present in almost all habitats throughout the site but seem to prefer the grasslands. Sedge Wrens appear and nest almost every season and may arrive in May or not until July. Their nesting has been confirmed as late as August 15. Several pairs of Savanna and Grasshopper sparrows showed up for the first time in 1994 although nesting has not been confirmed. Large numbers of Willow Flycatchers spend their summers here and have been confirmed nesters for the last five years.

Eastern Bluebird female tending to nestlings in box at Poplar Creek, June 1992. Photo by Dale Shields.

The great Dickcissel invasion of 1994 brought 13 singing males to Poplar Creek but all they did all summer was sing. No females were spotted. Eastern Meadowlarks nest each year but their numbers are lower than would be expected on a site of this size. In winter, we have documented the presence of a Northern Shrike. The bird has been seen several times but, more frequently, we see signs of the cached prey while we are clearing brush.

COVERING THE AREA:

The walk as outlined here covers about three miles and will take about three hours. There are no groomed trails; walking is difficult. The only facilities on site are Forest Preserve-issue outhouses in the parking area. During spring migration, this route should yield 65+ species and nesting season can bring 40 or more. In winter you can expect 20 species. The Poplar Creek Forest Preserve can be reached from any of the main east-west roads in Chicago's northwest suburbs. From Interstate 90, take Rt. 59 south to the entrance or take Rt. 59 north from Interstate 80. The preserve is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Workdays are held alternate Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m until 12:30 p.m., weather permitting. For volunteer opportunities, contact Rick McAndless at (847)843-0849. For further information on birding the area, contact Judy Mellin at (847)255-6548.

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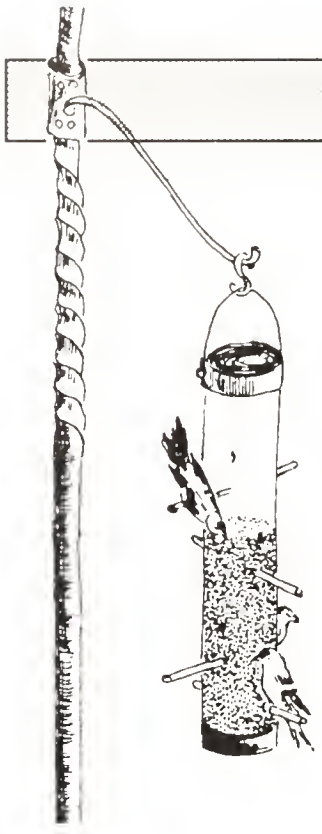

How bird-feeding affects birds

by Sheryl De Vore

Some 63 million Americans spend $2 billion annually on seed, feeders, and other related bird-feeding items, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. But while birders are gaining pleasure watching avian species eat from their backyard feeders, are the birds gaining anything back? Margaret Barker, Project FeederWatch coordinator for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, said proper bird-feeding does more good than harm, as long as birders maintain the proper perspective. But some scientists have suggested that bird-feeding could, in some instances, negatively impact certain birds.

For example, a University of Texas at Austin study suggests that there's another culprit besides rapid development that could be threatening the federally endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. Those culprits are people who feed Blue Jays, according to the study (Science Teacher 1994). With readily available food at feeders, the Blue Jay's population is growing, while the warbler's is diminishing. But Vernon Kleen, avian ecologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said that blaming the warbler's demise on bird-feeding would be short-sighted, since the relationship between Blue Jays and Golden-cheeked Warblers is so complex.

In his book, "Where Have All the Birds Gone?" John Terborgh suggests that Brown-headed Cowbirds and Blue Jays have benefited from the growing hobby of winter bird-feeding, to the detriment of songbirds, whose numbers are declining. Cowbirds parasitize songbirds' nests, while Blue Jays rob nests of eggs. The theory is more cowbirds and Blue Jays equals less songbirds. But is bird-feeding to blame?

"No," said Erica H. Dunn, former director of Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch. Dunn examined data collected for 25 years by the Breeding Bird Survey (1966-1989) and found "no real preponderance of increasing or decreasing species," related to bird-feeding (Dunn 1992). In fact, Dunn said, "some of our commonest feeder species have experienced significant, long-term declines, including the maligned nest-robbing Blue Jay. . . Bird-feeding does not as a general rule lead to increases in all, nearly all, or even most, of the species that frequently visit feeders," said Dunn.

Sue Wells, executive director of the Northbrook-based National Wild Bird Feeding Society, said Blue Jays may even help birds by being an early warning system. "If a hawk or cat is nearby, the Blue Jay will sound the alarm for the other birds," said Wells.

Dunn concedes, however, that it is possible that bird-feeding can negatively impact a particular species. In England, regular feeding of Blue Tits and Great Tits encouraged these two species to nest in suburban areas rather than in their natural deciduous woodland habitat. These species had poor reproductive success because natural foods were not readily available in their new breeding territories (Dunn 1992).

Can feeders cause birds to develop an unnatural dependency on certain foods? Margaret Brittingham and Stanley Temple of the University of Wisconsin at Madison studied two rural populations of Black-capped Chickadees, one fed artificially for 25 winters and another group that had not been fed. In the study year, neither group was fed in the winter. Brittingham and Temple found that both groups of birds survived equally well (Vines 1992). Brittingham and Temple said general conclusions about birds and bird-feeders should not be made from this study, but it does appear the chickadees are adaptable foragers, can survive on many different food sources, and will not become reliant on feeders as their only food source (Vines 1992). Barker said if birds did become dependent on only one food source, people who feed birds would see the same birds in their backyards all day all winter. "Birds do nothing in winter from sun-up to sun-down

Drawing by Denis Kania

except look for food," said Barker. "Your bird-feeder is just one stop on the bird's foraging route."

Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch is in its sixth year - and that's not long enough to make any generalizations about the effects of bird-feeding on certain species. But as data are gathered, "we will be able to determine whether there are significant population declines or expansions in certain bird species," said Barker.

Project FeederWatch uses volunteer backyard bird feeders to obtain data. The volunteers are given specific guidelines on when and how to count birds at their feeders.

One trend FeederWatch is following is the contraction of a potentially fatal respiratory disease by House Finches. Backyard bird-feeders are sending data to Cornell Lab (See *Meadowlark* Vol. 5 No. 1 for details). By combining survey data with Project FeederWatch data, "we'll be able to tell whether the disease is affecting House Finch numbers," said Andre Dhondt, director of Bird Population Studies at Cornell Lab. "Also, while House Finches are not endangered, other birds are," he said. "By tracking this outbreak, we'll learn how to respond if declining species are ever threatened by disease." Cornell Lab scientists and volunteers have so far discovered that the House Finch disease is spreading, but there have been almost no reports of other birds being infected even though House Finches come into contact with many other bird species at backyard feeders (Cornell Lab 1995).

"Bird-feeding is more for the enjoyment of people than for the survival of birds," said Kleen. But he would never tell people not to feed birds. "Many people's lives are enlightened because of feeding birds," said Kleen. "It is the best way to introduce people to nature."

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For more information on Project FeederWatch or the House Finch Disease Survey and how to volunteer, contact Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Education Program, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-1999. Telephone: (607) 254-2440.

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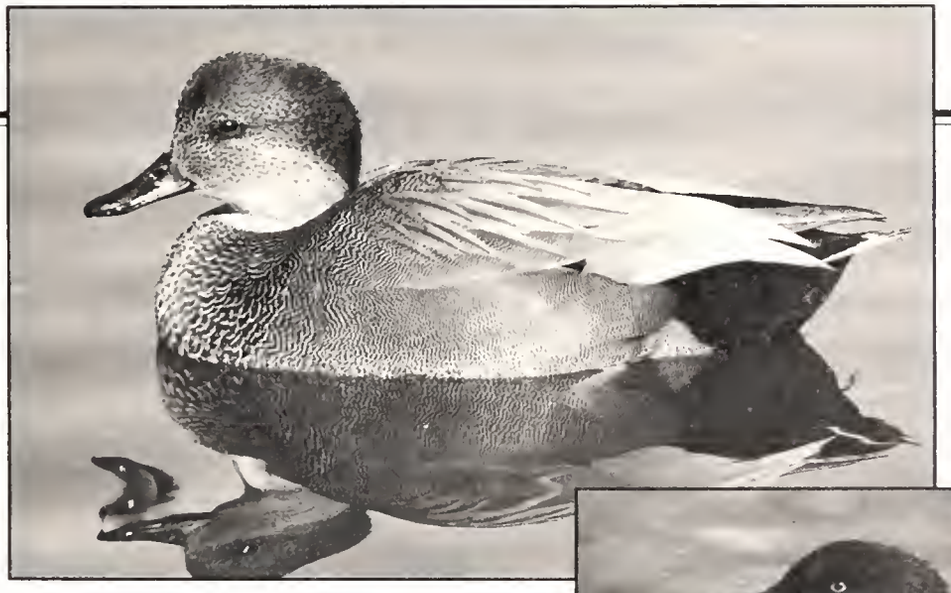
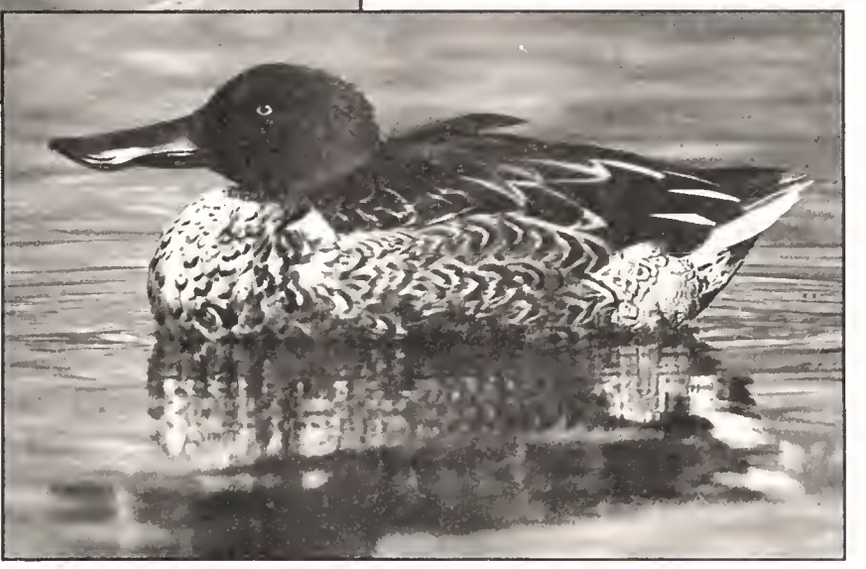


JUST DUCKY!

Lake Springfield in Sangamon County, hosts a variety of waterfowl each fall, making it a "ducky" place to watch birds.



Pictured here are the Gadwall (14 Nov. 1995) and the Northern Shoveler (23 Oct. 1995). Photos by Dennis Oehmke.

Record Hawk Flight at Illinois Beach State Park

I planned a hawkwatch at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County for 14 Oct. 1995. A front had passed through just hours before sunrise, bringing with it west/northwest winds at 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. Just after sunrise on 14 Oct., Josh Engel and I walked along the Dead River and a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) flew by. Then other hawks began to fly by, the numbers steadily increasing as the morning progressed. I then went with a group of hawkwatchers, including Wes Serafin, to a spot north of a stand of pine trees where Bob Erickson was birding. We had a great view to the west and north as hawks came down the river or along the tree line. Not long after arriving at the spot, Serafin noticed a very large black-colored bird flying in a dihedral pattern. It was obviously an eagle, but it wasn't until it came overhead about a half mile away where Josh Engle and I were watching that we were able to see the characteristic white patches at the distal end of the dark underwing coverts and white base of the tail. It was a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

Merlin numbers really exploded during the afternoon. Not only did the falcons often fly close by, but most were also less than 20 feet above ground affording great views. Most were males. By the day's end an all-time Illinois maximum count for Merlins was realized—**93**! Later we learned that an amazing **479 Merlins** (a midwest record) were tallied just north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin at Concordia College on the same day (H. Cohen pers. comm.). We counted 13 diurnal raptor species that day at the park. On 15 Oct., more northwesterly winds prevailed, but little cloud cover made the hawks more difficult to see since the hawks remained extremely high and looked like pinpoints in the sky. The two-day totals included 14 diurnal raptor species. The coments column in the charts indicate all-time high counts based on the list.

An asterisk before the number indicates an Illinois all-time single day high count, based on information from *The Birds of Illinois* (Bohlen 1989), *Meadowlark* Vols. 1-4, *Illinois Birds and Birding*, Vols. 1-7 and *Chicago Area Birds* (Mlodinow 1984).

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Mlodinow, S. 1984. Chicago Area Birds. Chicago Review Press, Chicago, IL.

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Table 1. Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch Totals

Species	14 Oct. 1995	15 Oct. 1995	Total	Comments
Turkey Vulture	1	25	26	NE IL high count
Osprey	0	1	1	
Bald Eagle	1	3	4	NE IL high count tie
Northern Harrier	62	105	167	IL 2nd highest count
Sharp-shinned Hawk	110	531	641	IL high count
Cooper's Hawk	3	25	28	IL high count
Northern Goshawk	1	1	2	somewhat early
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	2	
Broad-winged Hawk	1	2	3	fairly late
Red-tailed Hawk	74	301	375	IL high count
Golden Eagle	1	0	1	very rare in NE IL
American Kestrel	6	15	21	IL 4th highest count tie
Merlin	93	9	102	IL high count
Peregrine Falcon	5	2	7	

Sources: The Birds of Illinois. H.D. Bohlen. 1989. Indiana University Press; Meadowlark: Volumes 1-4 Illinois Birds & Birding, Volumes 1-7, Chicago Area Birds, S. Mlodinow. 1984. Chicago Review Press.

3,500 American White Pelicans at Swan Lake in Calhoun County

American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) began amassing on 16 Sept. 1995 in southwestern Illinois, when 53 were seen at Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Calhoun County. On 23 Oct., Jack Van Benthuysen saw 2,014 pelicans there and on 28 Oct. at 9 a.m., I estimated 3,500 present on the upper access of Swan Lake in Calhoun County. It was a clear day, 48 degrees F.

I saw three flocks on the lake. One group of 1,004 pelicans lined up along the far shore and was easy to count. The other two flocks were approximately one-tenth to one-quarter mile off. The number of birds in the larger of these two groups could not be accurately estimated. I believe that there were actually between 4,000 and 5,000 individuals and that my 3,500 count is a conservative estimate. Other observers of this great spectacle were Irene Mondhink, Jean Eaton, Bernice Dalton, Edna Alexander, Gilbert Ives, and Steve Dewall.

In September 1985, some 90 American White Pelicans were first observed (refuge personnel pers. comm.). The pelicans have returned every year since. In the summer of 1994, a group of 50 pelicans summered at the lake, from June through October. On 18 March 1995, I observed 230 pelicans and on 25 March 1995, I estimated 1,000 birds on Swan Lake. In several places along the Mississippi River, where the river flooded its banks, pelican flocks were present. This species is an occasional migrant in western Illinois (Bohlen 1989). This spectacular fall pelican flock plus recent data during the last 10 years suggest a change in the species encounterability status at least in the western portion of the state particularly along the Mississippi River.

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Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

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Clinton Lake's Second Common Black-headed Gull

On 8 Nov. 1995, knowing that two Little Gulls (*Larus minutus*) and an unidentified jaeger had been seen at Clinton Lake in recent weeks, I decided to check the gulls there. I noticed that there were plenty of gulls at the lake, especially Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*). I began at an area known as the overlook at 7 a. m., but saw only Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and Bonaparte's gulls. The gulls fed about a mile west of the overlook, so I made my way to the nearer Peninsula Day Use Area. Shortly after arriving, at 8:05 a.m., I spotted a rather large gull with the Bonaparte's Gulls. It had the typical Bonaparte's upper wing pattern, but with an unusual blackish-gray underside to the primaries. I immediately thought of a Common Black-headed Gull (*L. ridibundus*), which occurred at Clinton Lake in 1988.

As the bird flew within 100 yards of me, the underwing pattern was confirmed. The bird was intermediate between a Bonaparte's and Ring-billed in size. It also appeared to have a dark red bill. When it landed on the water, I clearly could see the dark red bill, which was also noticeably heavier and more angular than those of the Bonaparte's Gulls surrounding it. In addition, the Common Black-headed Gull had a longer neck and head with a much smaller ear spot, compared with Bonaparte's Gull. This rare gull was seen only the one day. Interestingly, a Common Black-headed Gull was found on the Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky shortly thereafter. This Old World species is a very rare vagrant and was first recorded in Illinois on 10 Feb. 1973 at Quiver Lake (Bohlen 1989).

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A September Sanderling Albino at Jackson Park

On 13 Sept. 1995, I discovered an "imperfect albino" Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* on the beach at 6300 South on the Chicago lakefront (Terres 1980). The bird was in near company with 13 normally plumaged Sanderlings. The combination of size, shape, and behavior allowed immediate identification to species, despite the abnormal plumage. I was also able to determine the species-diagnostic lack of a hallux, largest toe, on the odd bird.

I first studied the albino at about 6:40 a.m. under Bausch & Lomb 10x40 binoculars, with full sun over my shoulder from distances as close as 12 feet as paced. At that time I tape recorded a description, essentially

as entered below. I also took five frames of photos using a disposable Kodak "TeleFoto 35" camera.

At 8:45 a.m., I telephoned Tom Jackman hoping that he might obtain photos using more sophisticated equipment. He took photos later that morning.

I returned to the beach at about 11:15 a.m. with Doug Cooper. We saw 21 juvenal Sanderlings, plus the albino. Cooper obtained a series of photos using a 300 mm telephoto lens. We left all the birds in peace on the beach. This bird was relocated daily on the same beach through 17 Sept. 1995.

Sanderling albino, Jackson Park, Cook Co., 13Sept. 1995. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

Description: Ground color of entire plumage, white; to the naked eye the plumage appeared entirely snowy white both at rest and in flight. Under binoculars, a very pale pinkish brown to pale beige wash was visible on the crown, back, scapulars, primaries, and perhaps the tail. This wash was palest on the crown and back. The scapulars showed two diffuse bars of pinkish brown wash. Wing coverts were white. Visible primaries of sitting bird were scantly washed with pinkish brown. The tail apparently showed a similar wash, but no satisfactory views were obtained. At the bend of the wing was a darker (though still pale) patch of pinkish brown - this patch homologous to the black at the bend of the wing in normally plumaged birds. The spread wing showed, under binoculars, a "ghost image" of the typical Sanderling wing pattern, with a broad white wing stripe against a background of white lightly washed with pale brown. Iris was dark. Bill was dark fleshy brown. Legs and feet were dark fleshy brown, scantly paler than the bill.

The degree of coloration in the plumage was reminiscent of second-year Glaucous Gull - i.e., clean white to the naked eye, but with pale brown discernible on close scrutiny.

Age: I was unable to determine the bird's age. The bird lacked any hint of the "checkerboard" mantle of juvenal Sanderlings, but this may have been due to absence of melanin. I otherwise have no record of adult Sanderlings since 26 Aug. 1995, and all birds seen in September 1995 were identified as juvenals.

Social Behavior: At the times I observed the albino, it was mostly within 10-15 feet of the normally plumaged Sanderlings, but it remained isolated from the others and did not partake in the flocking behavior typical of this species. Jackman observed aggressive ostracization of the albino by the other Sanderlings.

Albinism in Sanderlings: Deane 1876:22f. remarks on the paucity of records for albino shorebirds:

An albino, *(C. fulvus* var. *Virginicus - Pluvialis dominica) is* the only instance which has come to my knowledge of albinism occurring in any of our Plovers or Sandpipers, and as these species

are shot in such immense numbers during the migration it is a little strange that we do not hear of more examples, as such curiosities are always preserved, even by the market gunner. *P(hilohela) minor and G. Wilsoni (=Capella gallinago)* have been shot in white plumage.

Deane 1680:29 adds several records of albinism in shorebirds (mostly from European collections), including two for Sanderling:

Mr. Geo. E. Browne... shot an albino Sanderling at Cotuit, Mass., Oct. 22, 1879. The bird was pure white, with the exeeption of a faint line on the head.... Mr. C. M. Adamson records a *white* Sanderling which was shot at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, Aug. 28, 1979, "nearly all white; the centre of the head cream-color, shaded to white, gradually and evenly marked there as elsewhere. Beak and legs olive."

Literature Cited

Deane, R. 1876. "Albinism and melanism among

North American birds." In: Bulletin of the Nuttal Ornithological Club 1.1: 20-24.

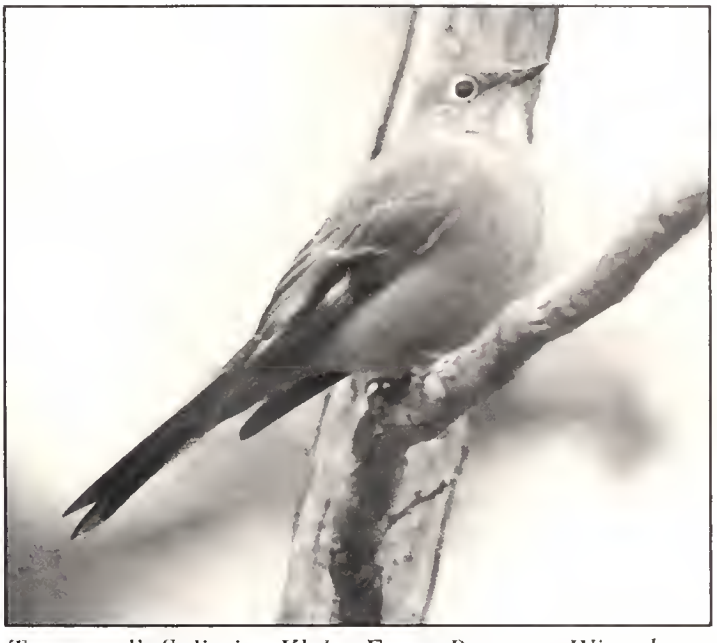
Deane, R. 1880. "Additional cases of albinism and melanism in North American birds." In: Bulletin of the Nuttal Ornithological Club 5.1: 25-30.

Terres, J. 1980. The Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds. 1991 reprint. Avenel, NJ. Wings Books.

— Paul R. Clyne
5538. Blackstone Ave.
Chicago IL 60637

First Winnebago County Record of Townsend's Solitaire

Klehm Arboretum and Forest Preserve in Rockford has maintained very restricted access during a multi-year redevelopment program. I had just received a special use permit allowing access during daylight hours for birding only, so I set out on 17 Nov. 1995 for my first visit of the fall season. The day was overcast with light winds and intermittent light mist. Temperatures were in the mid-30s. After walking the trails for over an hour with no noteworthy sightings, I approached a small stand of conifers in an open area at about 9:30 a.m. A bird flew from behind me and landed on the top spire of the closest spruce, about 40 feet away.



Townsend's Solitaire, Klehm Forest Preserve, Winnebago Co. 22 Nov. 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

My immediate thought was Townsend's Solitaire (*Hyadestes townsendi*), quickly followed by a more conservative appraisal that it must be a Northern Mockingbird in an unusual plumage. The lighting was a little too dark for good determination of color. The bird moved between six other trees for 20 minutes, usually to the top of each tree. This movement afforded views from all sides, as it perched, and when it flew. At one point, the bird foraged in a cedar tree and ate several berries. It called a loud "cheat" several times from one perch.

This bird was slim, about 9 inches long, generally gray, with darker wings and tail. It had no facial markings other than the complete white eye ring. It had a short, black bill, a buffy streak and irregular spot on the wing, and a narrow, notched tail with white edging. A yellowish-buffy color was conspicuous on the underwing coverts in flight.

After this initial study, I called Alan Branhagen, deputy director of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, who also serves as president of the local bird club. Branhagen initiated telephone contacts to local birders and set up a procedure to allow other birders to enter the Klehm Arboretum. Within two hours, at least six other birders had arrived. The bird was relocated and its identification as a Townsend's Solitaire confirmed by Branhagen, Lee Johnson, Dan Williams, and Brad Grover. This was the first confirmed sighting of a Townsend's Solitaire in Winnebago County. It was also a state bird for most local birders. Several days later, diagnostic photographs were taken by Joe Milosevich of Crest Hill. This bird was last seen 1 Jan. 1996.

This western species is usually recorded in winter in Illinois; the state's 13 published records prior to 1989 run from 22 Oct. through 8 April (Bohlen 1989). Nine published records besides this one and another wintering Townsend's Solitaire in Lake County during the 1995/96 season are from northern Illinois. (See the next issue of *Meadowlark* Vol. 5 No. 3 for details on the Lake County solitaire.) The closest breeding area to Illinois is northwestern Nebraska.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

—Roy Morris
5590 Thunderridge St.
Rockford, IL 61107

Two Immature Brants at Sangchris Lake State Park

At Sangchris Lake State Park on 13 Nov. 1995, I was looking at my first Sangamon County record of a Northern Shrike when I noticed two small, dark geese on the mudflat across the road. There had been between 50

and 60 small Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) earlier, so I trained my Kowa scope on these two and was surprised to find they were Brant (*B. bernicla*).

The two geese were as small as the Arctic race of the Canada Geese with an all black head, neck, and chest. The bill, eye, and tarsi were also blackish. The head had a coot-like look. I also noticed a couple of white feathers on the neck of one bird. The back was light brownish with grayish edgings giving a scaled appearance. The undertail coverts were white. The tail was black and in later flight the rump showed a white "V." The birds' sides were grayish brown. At certain light angles, both of these Brants showed light orange-brown colored eyes (they glowed), but when seen in profile, the iris looked dark. None of the small race of Canada Geese present gave the same effect.

The two Brant were too light in color to be other than the Eastern race *Branta bernicla hrota*. Both were immature birds. Among the small Canada Geese present with the Brant were two or three with neck collars. I traced the numbers on the collars later and found they were tagged from a breeding population on Baffin Island. This is also in the breeding range of Brant and these two may have traveled with the Canada Geese all the way from Baffin Island.

—H, David Bohlen
Illinois State Museum
1011 E. Ash St.
Springfield, IL 62703

Frigatebird Cruises the Mississippi

My husband, Bob, and I were motoring up the Mississippi River at mile 226 on 13 Oct. 1995 about 2:25 p.m. We were at the Golden Eagle Ferry crossing connecting St. Charles County, Missouri with Calhoun County, Illinois. It was sunny. I noticed a large bird to my right. I thought frigatebird, but not here! I told my husband, who was driving the boat to look at the bird and he immediately said it looked like a possible Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*). I went below and got binoculars and we shared them, watching the bird soar for the next 15 minutes. The bird was larger than a Great Blue Heron, but did not have its long legs. It had a white breast and a dark head and body. The bill was hooked. The tail was about 25% of the bird's overall length. The wings were long, about twice the length. Bob and I have vacationed on Sanibel Island, Florida for the last 10 years and we have observed Magnificent Frigatebird there and also in the British Virgin Islands. Bohlen (1989) lists this species as a very rare vagrant in Illinois. Four reports exist for Illinois. The third record was along the Mississippi River in Alexander County on 19 July 1986.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

—Mary M. Huber
4516A Cleveland Ave.
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Two September Yellow Rails in Vermilion County

As a lifelong birder and farmer, I have had the opportunity to observe unusual birds at unexpected times and locations. Mowing hay is one farming practice that has afforded me many interesting birding experiences. On the morning of 9 Sept. 1995, I started mowing a 10-acre field of seeded red clover, alfalfa, and volunteer giant foxtail. The dense vegetation was between 1-and-2-feet tall. The field is southwest of Homer in western Vermilion County, nowhere near a marsh or swamp. The nearest drainage ditch is 1.2 miles away. On the second round of the field, a Sora flushed in front of the mower. At about 10 a.m. on the third mowing round, a smaller, yellowish rail with a white wing patch flushed just a few feet ahead of the mower. It was approximately the size of an Eastern Bluebird with a very short tail, a mostly yellowish-brown coloration overall, and white wing patches obvious in flight. It flew no more than 60 feet when it dropped into the uncut hay.

On the fifth round, the same rail darted out of the standing hay directly in front of the tractor and ran a short distance before re-entering the standing hay. By that time, I had stopped the forward motion of the tractor so I wouldn't kill the bird. The rail reappeared at the edge of the uncut hay and stood still. It stayed put for perhaps 30 seconds at a distance of about 15 feet while I was able to observe bill shape, the checkerboard back with brown spots separated by yellowish white, and its general body shape. The bird then ran across the 3- to 4-inch cut hay stubble and beneath the cut hay swaths away from the standing hay. I continued to mow, flushing two more Soras and two Grasshopper Sparrows. When the field was almost completely mowed at about 11 a.m., a second Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) flushed in front of the mower and flew from the bare side of what little hay remained uncut to the opposite side of the standing forage. I continued to mow very slowly to give the bird time to fly.

The number of annual observations of Yellow Rails in Illinois can usually be counted on the fingers of one hand. While these birds are probably more common than the number of sightings indicate, their secretive nature and habitat requirements greatly limit the chances of seeing one and even then, only for brief moments. My only other observation of a Yellow Rail occurred nearly 10 years ago while mowing alfalfa. I found a freshly killed, flattened Yellow Rail on a township road that bisects our farm. This species is a rare migrant in Illinois which occurs in fall in hayfields and other agricultural areas away from water (Bohlen 1989).

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

—James O. Smith
RR 1, Box 327
Homer, IL 60068

Mountain Bluebird in La Salle County

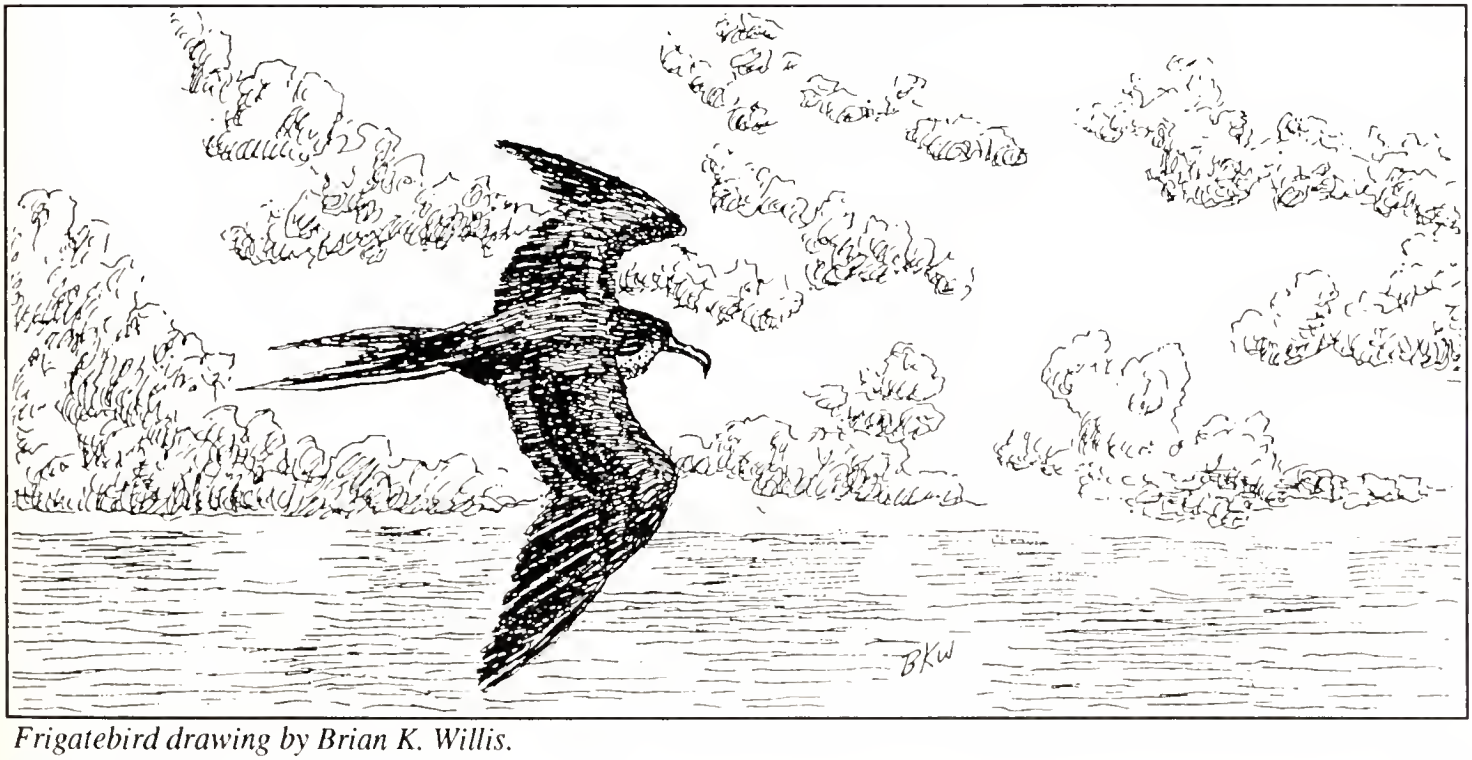
On 19 Nov. 1995 David Brenner and Jerry Rosenband discovered a female Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) southwest of the La Salle Nuclear Plant in open farmfield country. The next day early in the morning I rediscovered the bluebird in a small fruit tree nursery adjacent to a farm house and barn complex on E 2300 between N18 and N19 on the east side of the road. The bird was sitting in a small fruit tree 3 feet off the ground preening. From the fruit tree it flew to the top of a fence post and gradually worked from fence post to fence post dropping to the ground to feed on large caterpillars. At one stage, the bird hovered for a few seconds 10 feet off the ground. In flight the bird appeared long-winged.

The bird had a more horizontal stance than a typical Eastern Bluebird (*S. sialis*). The head, neck, and back were bluish gray. I noted a prominent white eye ring. The flanks and chest were grayish brown. The lower belly and undertail coverts were white. The upper surface of the tail was sky blue. The primaries were sky blue with black edges and tips. When preening, the bird showed white margins on the secondaries. In flight, the tail showed bright sky blue while the upper wings were not quite as bright. The underwing was gray. In bright sunlight, the head had a touch of brown and the back was more gray than blue. The downy breast feathers were dark. The bird had black legs and bill. My approximate viewing time was 30 minutes during clear sunny skies and rather cold and windy conditions. Unfortunately no other birders were able to relocate this bird. This species as a very rare vagrant; only three records have been accepted for the state (Bohlen 1989).

Literature Cited

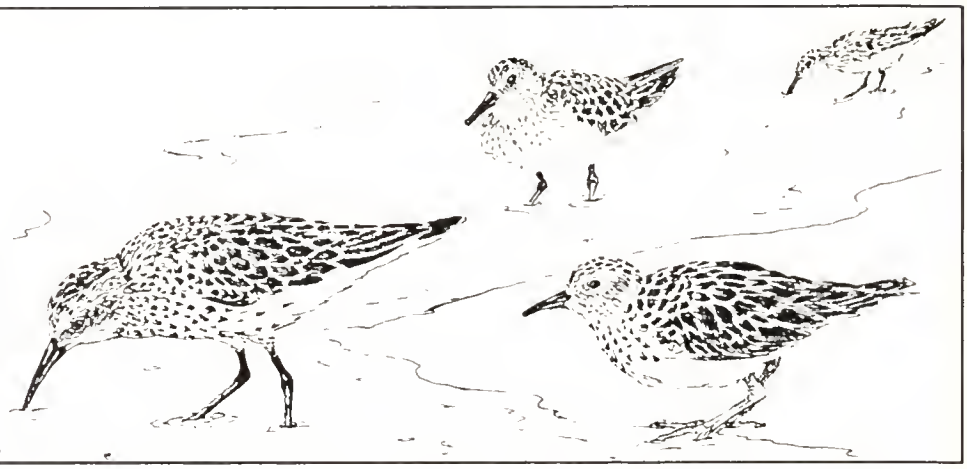
Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press.

—Michael Hogg
3710 Torrey Pines
Northbrook, IL 60062



Frigatebird drawing by Brian K. Willis.

Field Notes



Peeps drawing by David Athans. Western Sandpiper, far left, Baird's Sandpiper middle, Least Sandpiper, right.

The 1995 FALL SEASON

by Robert Chapel

Based on temperatures and precipitation, autumn would have to be considered normal for the first three months. August was wet and had above average temperatures, September was dry and below average and October was near average for those two categories. However, November brought in winter weather with below normal temperatures and an early November snowstorm. This tended to cause an early exodus of migrants, although lingerers continued in near normal numbers.

A strong northern front in mid-October brought a rather spectacular migration statewide on the weekend of October 14 and 15. Hawk-watchers were the first to report in to bird alerts and networks the results of this migration. There were remarkable flights of Merlins on October 14 and accipiters and other hawks both days (see seasonal highlights). There were also large flights of landbirds (see, especially, Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers and White-throated Sparrows) and cormorants. The first big buildup of pelicans at Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge also occurred on this weekend (see seasonal highlights).

The occurrence of rarities, as is often the case, had a western flavor. Just prior to Labor Day weekend, a juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered near McCormick Place in Chicago (see article in this issue). Two different cooperative Townsend's Solitaires were discovered in mid-November, in Waukegan and in Rockford (see seasonal highlights). A Mountain Bluebird (see seasonal highlights) was discovered in a remote field in La Salle County at about the same time. A Common Black-headed Gull was reported at Clinton Lake (see seasonal highlights). In addition to these true rarities, Harris' Sparrows made a very good showing in the eastern part of the state, a number of western type Red-tailed Hawks were reported, and two different Western Kingbirds were found. Also, there were a good number of sightings of Golden Eagles on the state's eastern side. Deviating from the western flavor was an anomalous frigatebird (see seasonal highlights) found in the middle of the Mississippi River near St. Louis and a Neotropical Cormorant found at Channahon in early September. Other rarities are still pending review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

A number of northern species began showing up in good numbers toward the end of the period. Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were reported in modest numbers and a few White-winged Crossbills and Bohemian Waxwings were located in November. Purple Finches were found in unusually large numbers in the central part of the state. Northern Shrikes were found in good numbers and penetrated the state as far south as Decatur and Springfield. The most noteworthy invader though, at least so far, has been Red-breasted Nuthatch, which staged a large, regionwide influx in September.

Gulls appeared in near normal numbers with a fair number of sightings of the "usual rarities", such as Sabine's Gulls, Little Gulls, kittiwake, and the "winter" gulls. Although total numbers of shorebirds seemed low, there were good numbers of the more unusual species seen, and the shorebirds seemed to linger late into November. There were, especially, a large number of late records for avocets. Ducks were found by aerial surveys in very large numbers in traditional areas. Canvasbacks put in a spectacular appearance on the Mississippi River. Warblers appeared to be a little more scarce than usual, although some species, such as Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, and Palm warblers appeared in above normal numbers, while sparrow numbers seemed to be normal to a little better than normal.

A special thanks is extended to all contributors to this report, who are listed here in full and by initials following each observation: Renee Baade (RBa), Steve Bailey, Beth

Beauchamp; David Becker (DBe), Laurence Binford, Richard Biss, David Bohlen, Ron Bradley (RBr), Karin Cassel, Robert Chapel, Elizabeth Chato, Paul Clyne, Jon Dunn (JDu), Myrna Deaton, Tim Dever, Michele Deptula (MDe), Jeff Donaldson, Ralph Eiseman, Josh Engel, Robert Erickson (BE), Carolyn Fields, Darlene Fiske, Ronald Flemal, Sue Frisia, Michelle Georgi (MGe), Brad Grover, Kanae Hirabayashi, Larry Hood, Barrie Hunt, Robert Hughes, Mary Huber, Robert Huber (RHu), Thomas Jackman, Dave Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, John Koch, James Landing, David Mandell, Walter Marcisz, Cynthia McKee (CMc), John McKee (JMc), Keith McMullen, Massey Meents (MMe), Dan Miller (DMl), Joseph Milosevich, Roy Morris, Shaibal Mitra, Greg Neise, Grace Oakley, John O'Brien, Peter Kasper, Judy Pollock, Jack Pomatto (JPo), Dale Pontius, John Purcell (JPu), Robert Randall, Kevin Richmond, Gerry Rosenband, William Rowe, Jeffrey Sanders, Wes Serafin, Jim Smith, Leonard Stanley, Sid Steele, Alan Stokie, Craig Thayer, Jack Van Benthuysen, Eric Walters, Doris Westfall, Richard Whitton (RWh), Kevin Wright, Helen Wuestenfeld

Waterfowl survey reports by Michelle Georgi (MGe) and Massey Meents (MMe) are aerial survey and should be considered general approximations.

American White Pelican sleeping on mound at Fermi Lab, 3 Nov. 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

1995 Fall Season

Common Loon
EA: **13 Sep.**, Chi (RH, JPu); 7 Oct., Wilmette (JL); 21 Oct., Clin.L (RC).MC: 38, Spfld, 2 Nov. (DB); 37, Wilmette, 2 Nov. (EW). LD: 25 Nov., LCal (WM).

Pied-billed Grebe
EA: 14 Aug. (ad.), Spfld (DB). MC: 200, Decatur, 28 Oct. (MD); 55, Eagle Park (Madison Co), 6 Aug. (KM); 41, Powderhorn L. F.P. (Cook Co), 29 Oct. (WM). LD (north): 27 Nov. LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Horned Grebe
EA: 5 Oct., Spfld (DB). MC: 200, Clin.L, 8 Nov. (RC); **162**, Wilmette, 2 Nov. (EW).

Red-necked Grebe
EA: 14 Oct., Clin.L (RC). LD: 22-27 Nov. (ad.), Pekin (KR,m.ob.).

Eared Grebe
EA: 8 Sep. (imm.), Spfld (DB). MC: 3, Spfld, 30 Oct. (DB). LD: 26 Nov., Spfld (DB).

American White Pelican
EA: 13 Aug., Rend L (KM). MC: **3500+**, MTNWR, 28 Oct. (HW) see seasonal highlights; **300**, Savannah Army Depot, 7 Oct. (RF). LD: 5 Nov., Thomson (Carroll Co) (RF); 29 Oct-5 Nov., **Fermi** (PK,m.ob.-photos); 4 Nov. (3), Clear L (Mason Co) (RC). Others:

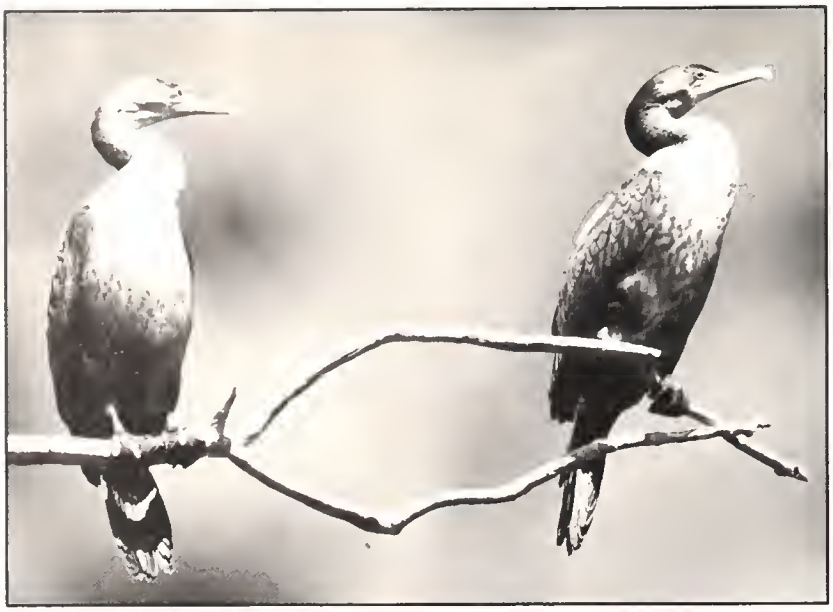
As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

Carl.L=Carlyle Lake (Clinton & Bond Cos)
CBG =Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, Cook Co)
Chi =Chicago's Lakefront Parks, excluding JP (Cook Co)
Clin.L =Clin.L (De Witt Co)
CONWR =Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
CNC =Crabtree Nature Center (Cook Co)
Fermi =Fermilab at Batavia (Du Page Co)
FWMA =Fishhook Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co.)
GLPSP =Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co)
HLCA =Horseshoe Lake C.A. (Madison Co)
IBSP =Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
JP =Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)
KCP =Kennekuk County Park (Vermilion Co)
LCal =Lake Calumet & vicinity (Cook Co)
LChau =Lake Chatauqua N.W.R. (Mason Co)
LCNP =La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)
LRen =Lake Renwick (Will Co)
LShel =Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie and Shelby Cos)
M.Arb =Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
MFWA =Middlefork F.W.A. (Vermilion Co)
MM =McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)
MS =McGinnis Slough (Cook Co)
MTNWR=Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Calhoun Co
Palos =Palos Forest Preserve (Cook Co)
Rend L =Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
RLCA =Rice Lake C.A. (Fulton Co)
SRSF =Sand Ridge State Forest
Sang.L =Sangchris Lake S.P. (Sangamon and Christian Cos)
Spfld =Springfield (Sangamon Co)
UCCA =Union County Conservation Area
Wauk =Waukegan (Lake Co)

ad. = adult
Co (s)= County (ies)
subad.= subadult
C.A. = Conservation Area
imm. = imm.
F.P. = Forest Preserve
yg. = young
F.W.A.= Fish and Wildlife Area
pr. = pair
L = Lake
* = documented record
N.C. = Nature Center
** = specimen record
N.P. = Nature Preserve
resp. = respectively
N.W.R.= National Wildlife Refuge
m.ob.= many observers
S.F. = State Forest
est. = estimated
S.P. = State Park
I.O.R.C.= Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. **Bold** and underlined information represent significant records relative to past fall seasons.

EA = Earliest Arrival(s) MC = Maximum Count(s) LD = Latest Departures(s)



Double-crested Cormorants, Springfield, 18 Oct. 1995. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

9 Oct.(2), **CBG** (EW); 14-15 Oct., Barrington (JSa); 15 Oct., Palos (AS).

Double-crested Cormorant
EA: 30 July (2 ad.), Middlefork F.P. (RC). MC: 7000, Carl.L, 15 Oct. (KM); 500, LChau, 19 Aug. (RC); 263, Wilmette, 8 Sep. (EW,RH). LD (north): 28 Nov. (2), Wilmette (EW).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT
EA: 11 Sep., Channahon (*JM—photo).

FRIGATEBIRD
8 July, Montrose Harbor, Chi, (MDe,GN). 13 Oct (female), Mississippi R between St. Charles Co (MO) & Calhoun Co (IL) (*MH,RHu) (see seasonal highlights).

American Bittern
EA: 8 Oct., JP (KC); 22 Oct., Urbana (RC). LD: 14 Nov., Evanston (fide EW) (emaciated, taken to Lincoln Park Zoo).

Least Bittern
LD: 7 Oct., IBSP (BE,AS). Others: 19-20 Aug., Havana (RC,MD).

Great Blue Heron
MC: 50, Carl.L, 30 Oct. (KM). LD: 1 Dec., JP (PC).

Great Egret
MC: 1500, RLCA (1200) & LChau (300), 19 Aug. (RC); 650, Alexander Co, 10 Aug. (KM); 330+, MS, 16 Sep. (WS). LD: 18 Nov., Clin.L (RC,MD,KR m.ob.); 5 Nov., Rock Cut S.P. (BG); 5 Nov., Savannah Army Depot (RF).

Snowy Egret
EA: 10 Aug., RLCA (KR); 19 Aug. (imm.), Wadsworth (AS). MC: 88, Alexander & Union Co, 4 Sep (JDu); 12, RLCA, 25 Aug. - 6 Sep. (KR). LD: 1 Nov., St. Clair Co (KM); 14 Oct. (1 ad., 1 imm.), Clin.L (RC); 14 Oct., **CNC** (AS). Others: 2-10 Sep. (2), MS (CT,WS).

Little Blue Heron
EA: 12 July, Spfld (DB); 6 Aug., **Evanston** (EW). MC: 250, Monroe Co, 10 Aug. (MD); 45 (imm.), Banner Marsh C.A., 23 Aug. (KR). LD: **15 Oct.** (imm.), Millstadt (St. Clair Co) (*TD); 21 Sep. (13 imm.), RLCA (KR). Others: 25 Aug. (2), Palos (CT); 5-8 Sep. Cherry Valley (Winnebago Co) (BG); 10 Sep., Lake Co (JL).

Cattle Egret
MC: 350, Monroe Co, 10 Aug. (MD). LD: 15 Oct. (2), HLCA (KM); 14 Oct. (1 ad., 3 imm.), Clin.L (RC).

Green Heron
MC: 10, w. Will Co, 6 Sep. (JM); 6, Spfld, 9 & 22 Aug. (DB). LD: 14 Oct., IBSP (JSa).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 23 June (ad.), Spfld (DB). MC: 97, LChau, 29 Sep. (KR); 65, Palos, 18 Sep. (WS). LD: 25 Nov. (3), LCal (WM); 23 Nov. (imm.), Spfld (DB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 16 July, Middlefork F.P. (RC). LD: 4 Sep.(imm.), Spfld (DB). Others: 28-29 July (imm.), JP (PC); 10 Aug., Sauget (St. Clair Co) (KM); 29 Aug. (imm.), Spfld (DB).

White-faced Ibis
7-10 Nov. (ad.-red eye seen), Havana (Sand Lake) (KR). "**plegadis species**" EA: 28-29 Oct., Havana (Sand Lake) (fide DB); 4 Nov., LChau (RC) (probably same bird as above).

Tundra Swan
EA: 14 Oct. (45+), CNC (fide RB); 29 Oct. (8), LCNP (CMc,JMc); 3 Nov. (4 ad.), Spfld (DB). MC: **120+**, Wauk (& later over Lake Forest), 28 Nov. (fide EW); 36, LChau, 23-24 Nov. (KR,LA). LD: 16 Dec. (8-5 imm., all migrating south), Chi (Miegs Field) (EW,JE). Others (downstate): 12 Nov. (3 ad.), Clin.L (RC). "Swan species" LD: 15 Dec. (10), JP (PC).

Mute Swan
MC: 68, Wolf L (Chi), 25 Nov. (WM); 9, Spring L C.A. (Tazewell Co), 9 Sep.-3 Oct. (KR). Others: 5 Nov. (3), Thomson (RF).

Greater White-fronted Goose
EA: 20 Oct. (15), Sang.L (DB). MC: 67, LCNP, 29 Oct. (CMc,JMc); 65, LChau, 17 Nov. (KR); 15, Fermi, 27 Oct. (PK). LD: 23 Nov. (3), LChau (KR); 23 Nov. (2), Buckhart (DB); 6 Nov. (3), Fermi (m.ob.).

Snow Goose
EA: 16 Sep., S. Cook Co (WS); 30 Sep. (1 blue, 1 white), Clin.L (MD,RC). MC: 700, Cuba (Fulton Co) (m.ob.), 225, LCNP, 19 Nov. (CMc,JMc); 200 (4 white), Fermi, 3 Nov. (EW).

Ross' Goose
EA: 2 Nov., Fermi (PK). LD: 12 Nov., Clin.L (RC).

BRANT
13 Nov. (2 imm.), Spfld (*DB) (see seasonal highlights).

Canada Goose
MC: 28,000, CONWR, 29 Nov. (RWh). "Small size" EA: 25 Sep., Spfld (DB). MC: 400, Spfld, 13, 25 & 30 Nov. (DB). "Canada x White-fronted or domestic" 31 Oct., LChau (KR). "Canada x Domestic" 9-30 Nov.+, JP (PC). "Canada x Snow Goose" 12-14 Sep. (2), JP (*PC,KC).

Wood Duck
MC: 210, Palos, 9 Sep. (WS); 150, Rend L, 13 Aug. (KM). LD: 4 Nov. (9), JP (PC).

Green-winged Teal
EA: 20 Aug. (2), Spfld (DB). MC: 5000, LChau, 6 Nov. (MGe). LD (north): 27 Nov. (3), LCNP (CMc,JMc).

American Black Duck
EA: 14 Sep., JP (DM).

Mallard
MC: 165,000, LChau, 4 Dec. (MGe). "American Wigeon x Mallard" 23 Nov., Spfld (DB).

Northern Pintail
EA: 19 Aug., RLCA (RC); 19 Aug., Carl.L (DK). MC: 8000, Duck Creek (Fulton Co), 13 Nov. (MGe). LD (north): 19 Nov.

(male), Chi (JL); 19 Nov. (5), LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 20 Aug. (33), Spfld (DB). MC: 9700, LChau, 5 Sep. (MGe). LD: 12 Nov., Clin.L (RC); 3 Nov. (pr.), Baker's L (Cook Co) (EW).

Northern Shoveler
EA: 19 Aug., RLCA (RC). MC: 2100, LChau, 25 Oct. (MGe); 350, O'Fallon, 19 Nov. (KM). LD (north): 19 Nov. (6), LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Gadwall
EA: 17 Sep., Spfld (DB). MC: 4000, LChau, 6 Nov. (MGe).

American Wigeon
EA: 8 Aug., (3), JP (KC); 3 Sep., Arcola (RC).

Canvasback
EA: 15 Oct. (female), Spfld (DB); 17 Oct. (male), CNC (CF).

Redhead
EA: 3 Oct. (3), Spfld (DB); 6 Oct., Evanston (EW).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 17 Sep., Spfld (DB). LD: 10 Nov. (2 males), JP (PC). Others (summering birds): 6 Aug., IILCA (KM); 8 Sep., Palatine (CF).

Greater Scaup
EA: **9 Sep.**, Wilmette (EW); 28 Oct., Clin.L (RC). MC: 1000, Chi, 19 Nov. (JL).

Lesser Scaup
EA: **8 Sep.**, Wilmette (RH,EW); 14 Oct., Clin.L (RC); 14 Oct. (6), Spfld (DB). MC: 700, Spfld, 3 Nov. (DB); 100, Carl.L, 30 Oct. (KM).

Oldsquaw
EA: 2 Nov. (19), 9 Nov.(female), Wilmette (EW); 30 Nov., Lebanon (DK).

Black Scoter
EA: 20 Oct. (4-1 ad. male), IBSP (EW). MC: 5 (3 males, 2 females), Carl.L, 30 Oct. (JV); 4 (2 males, 2 females), Clin.L, 29 Oct. (RC). LD: 14 Nov., Chi (JPu). Others: 26 Oct., Spfld (DB); 30 Oct. (3 females), **Rock Cut S.P.** (BG); 5 Nov. (3), **Fulton** (Whiteside Co) (RF).

Surf Scoter
EA: 21 Oct. (11), IBSP (AS); 26 Oct. (5), Spring L C.A. (KR); 29 Oct.(2 imm.), Carl.L (DK). MC: 5, Spfld, 5 Nov. (DB). LD: 20 Nov. (3), Rock Cut S.P. (KM,m.ob.); 17 Nov., Spfld (DB).

White-winged Scoter
EA: 26 Oct. (2 female), Rock Cut S.P. (RM). MC: 5, Wilmette, 4 Nov. (EW). LD: 28 Nov. (imm.), Decatur (MD).

Common Goldeneye
EA: 24 Oct. (15), Wilmette (EW); 7 Nov. (male, female), Spfld (DB). MC: 5000, Keokuk-Nauvoo (Mississippi R), 4 Dec. (MGe).

Bufflehead
EA: 20 Oct. (2 females), IBSP (EW).

Hooded Merganser
EA: 6 Aug., LCal (WM). MC: **197**, LCNP, 5 Nov. (CMc,JMc); 100, Spfld, 28 Nov. (DB).

Common Merganser
EA: 3 Nov. (female), Spfld (DB); 5 Nov., Rock Cut S.P. (BG). MC: 4500, Pekin, 28 Nov. (MGe).

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: 20 Oct. (17), IBSP (EW). MC: 560+, Evanston, 12 Nov. (EW,JE). Others: 1 Aug. (female, summering?), RLCA (KR).

Ruddy Duck
EA: 14 Sep. (male, female), Spfld (DB). MC: 2000, Clin.L, 29 Oct. (RC); 1200, Spring L C.A., 7 Nov. (KR). Others (summering): 6 Aug. (2), Eagle Park (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Turkey Vulture
MC: 42, Shirland (Winnebago Co), 11 Sep. (BG); **25**, IBSP, 15 Oct. (DJ,BE); 14, Skokie Lagoons F.P., 14 Oct. (EW,JE). LD: 14 Nov. (2), Fermi (CMc,JMc).

Mississippi Kite
LD: 26 Aug., Jersey County (HW).

Female Oldsquaw at Wilmette's Gillson Park, Cook Co., 9 Nov. 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Osprey
EA: 22 Aug., Spfld (DB); 27 Aug., Palos (AS). MC: 7, Warsaw (Hancock Co), 9 Sep. (LH); 6, Clin.L, 30 Sep. (RC). LD: 3 Nov., Palos (WS).

Bald Eagle
EA: 7 Aug., UCCA (DMl); 6 Sep. (ad.), RLCA (KR). MC: 20, LChau, 4 Nov. (RC); **4**, IBSP, 14 & 15 Oct. (DJ,WS,BE,m.ob.). Others: 6 ad., 12 imm. and 10 unspecified away from traditional western and southern Illinois areas.

Northern Harrier
EA: 14 Oct. (2 males), Clin.L (RC). MC: **167**, IBSP, 14 & 15 Oct. (EW,JE,WS,DJ,BE,m.ob.); 10, Logan (Franklin Co), 5 Nov+ (LS). LD (north): 10 Nov. (male), JP (PC).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 30 Aug. (female), Spfld (DB); 3 Sep., Chi (JL); 9 Sep., Carl.L (KM). MC: **641+**, IBSP, 14 & 15 Oct. (BE,WS,DJ,EW,m.ob.); 156, IBSP, 7 Oct. (BE); 53 (mostly ads., 90%, in 2 hrs. after 4 p.m.), Mahomet, 15 Oct. (RC).

Cooper's Hawk
EA: 13 Aug. (ad.) Jurgensen Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (WM); 3 Sep. (ad.), Arcola (RC); 9 Sep., Carl.L (KM). MC: **25**, IBSP, 15 Oct. (DJ,WS,m.ob.); 5 (in 2 hrs., after 4 p.m.), Mahomet, 15 Oct. (RC). Others: 23 Sep.-18 Dec. (imm.), Chi (JPu,RH); 3 Nov. (ad.), Chi (JPu,RH).

Northern Goshawk
EA: 8 Oct. (ad.), Spfld (DB); 14 Oct., IBSP (EW,JE). Others: 28 Oct. (imm.), IBSP (AS); 29 Oct. (ad.), Clin.L (RC); 22 Nov. (imm.), Sang.L (DB); 28 Nov. (imm.), Spfld (DB).

Red-shouldered Hawk
EA: 7 Oct., JP (fide PC); 7 Oct. (imm.), Decatur (MD). MC: 4, Palos, 29 Oct. (WS). LD: 25 Nov. (ad.), Sang.L (DB); 4 Nov., JP (JO).

Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 23 Aug. (imm.), Sang.L (DB). MC: 65, RLCA, 22 Sep. (KR). LD: 25 Oct., Farina (Marion Co) (LB); 15 Oct. (ad.),

Mahomet (RC); 15 Oct. (2), IBSP (WS,BE,m.ob.).

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: **375**, IBSP, 14 & 15 Oct. (WS,DJ,EW,JE,m.ob.); **310**, IBSP, 29 Oct. (AS,BE); 35, Spfld, 3 Nov. (DB). Others: "Harlan's": 19 Nov. (ad.), Urbana (RC); 22 Nov.+, Zeigler (LS) & 25 Nov. (2nd bird), Zeigler (LS); 23 Nov., St. Clair Co (*TD). "Krider's": 17 Oct., Macomb (LH); 22-27 Nov. Zeigler & 27 Nov. (2nd bird), Zeigler (LS). (several other western-type Red-tailed Hawks were also noted by LS in Franklin Co, 27 Oct. - 27 Nov.).

Rough-legged Hawk
EA: 21 Oct., Clin.L (RC); 30 Oct., Carl.L (KM). MC: 7, Techny, 19 Nov. (JE).

Golden Eagle
EA: **14 Oct.** (imm.), IBSP (*WS,BE,EW,JE-photos); 21 Oct. (ad.), Mahomet (RC). LD: 27 Nov. - 3 Dec. (imm.), Middlefork F.P. (EC,RC). Others: 21 Oct. (3rd yr.), IBSP (AS,m.ob.); 23 Oct. (imm.), Rock Cut S.P. (BG); 25 Oct. (imm.), Effingham (LB); 11 Nov. (ad.), Spfld (DB).

American Kestrel
MC: 11, LCal, 6 Aug. (WM).

Merlin
EA: 27 Aug., Chi (JL); 6 Sep., RLCA (KR). MC: **93**, IBSP, 14 Oct. (BE,EW,JE,m.ob.) see seasonal highlights; 2, Mahomet, 15 Oct. (RC). LD: 5 Nov., Spfld (DB). Others: 14 reports from the central and 33 in the north.

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 20 Aug., Chi (JL); 23 Aug., East St. Louis (KM). MC: 5, IBSP, 14 Oct. (BE,EW,JE). Others: 3 from the south; 13 central & 22 north.

GYRFALCON
EA: 1 Oct. (gray imm.), RLCA (KR).

Prairie Falcon
EA: 8 Nov., Monticello (RC).

Wild Turkey
MC: 20, SRSF, 10 Nov. (KR).

Yellow Rail
MC: 2, se. Vermilion Co, 4 Sep. (*JS)(see seasonal highlights).

Virginia Rail
EA: 22 Aug., Decatur (MD).

King Rail
LD: 3 Sep. (2), Sauget (St. Clair Co) (DK).

Sora
EA: 10 Aug. (ad.), JP (PC); 23 Aug. (2 imm.), Sang.L (DB). MC: 8, Palos, 29 Sep. (WS). LD: 14 Oct., Chi (JL).

Common Moorhen
MC: 25, Eagle Park (Madison Co), 17 Sep. (WR); 15 (imm.), Palatine, 19 Sep. (CF). LD: 2 Nov. (3 imm.— raised at location), Havana (Sand Lake) (KR); 29 Oct., Powderhorn L F.P. (Cook Co) (WM).

American Coot
EA: 9 Sep. (3), Palos (WS). MC: 6000, Clin.L, 15 Oct. (MD); 5000, Carl.L, 30 Oct. (KM); 2700, Baker's L (Cook Co), 3 Nov. (EW).

Sandhill Crane
EA: 10 Sep., McHenry Co (DF). MC: 514, Palatine, 4 Nov. (CF). LD: 21 Nov., Winthrop Harbor (DJ); 10 Nov., LChau (KR).

Black-bellied Plover
EA: 6 Aug., Momence (RC); 6 Aug. Chi (JL); 23 Sep. (imm.), Chi (JL). MC: 150, RLCA, 14 Oct. (KR). LD: 20 Nov., Wauk (DJ).

American Golden-Plover
EA: 6 Aug. (6), Momence (m.ob.); 13 Aug., Rend L (KM); 23 Sep. (imm.), Chi (JL). MC: 250, RLCA, 7 Oct. (KR); 200, Momence, 2 Sep. (RC). LD: **13-14 Nov.**, Chi (EW,JPu-photos); 12 Nov., Clin.L (RC).

Semipalmated Plover
EA: 8 July, JP (KC); 15 July, Arcola (RC); 23 July, Alexander Co (KM); 12 Aug. (imm.), Chi (JL). MC: 47, LCal, 13 Sep. (WS). LD: 28 Oct., IBSP (AS); 28 Oct., Sang.L (DB).

Piping Plover
EA: 16 July, Chi (Rainbow Beach) (DM). LD: 5 Oct., RLCA (KR). Others: 3 Aug. (ad. male), JP (PC); 26-27 Aug., Carl.L (DK,MD); 3 Sep., Arcola (RC).

Killdeer
MC: 800, Momence, 2 Sep. (RC), 650, Carl.L, 22 Aug. (KM). LD (north): 4 Nov., IBSP (AS).

Black-necked Stilt
MC: 14, Jackson (4) & Alexander (4 ad., 6 yg.) Co's, 10 Aug. (KM,*TD). LD: 4 Sep. (4—pr. + 2 juv.), n. Alexander Co (JDu); 1 Sep. (summered), Decatur (MD). Others: 4-13 Aug. (2), Monroe Co (DK,KM).

American Avocet
EA: 10 Aug., RLCA (RC); 19 Aug. (3), Carl.L (DK). MC: 12, LChau, 14 Oct. (KR); 11, Quincy, 13 Sep. (GO). LD: **19 Nov.** (2), LChau (KR); **3 Nov.** (3), Spfld (DB); **2 Nov.** (8), Carl.L (KM); **28 Oct.** (8), Evanston (EW). Others: 24 Oct., Evanston/ Wilmette (EW); 24 Oct. (2), Chi (RH)

Greater Yellowlegs
EA: 4 July (3), Songbird Slough (Du Page Co) (AS); 9 July, Decatur (RC). MC: 75, LChau, 29 Sep. (KR). LD: 10 Nov. (6), LChau (KR); 10 Nov., Spfld (DB); 5 Nov., Songbird Slough (AS).

Lesser Yellowlegs
EA: 24 June (3), LCal (JL); 4 July, Decatur (RC); 19 Aug. (imm.), LCal (JL). MC: 500+, LChau, 29 July (RC,MD); 275+, LCal, 16 July (WM). LD: 2 Nov., Carl.L (KM); 29 Oct., Clin.L (RC); 28 Oct., IBSP (AS).

Solitary Sandpiper
EA: 4 July, Decatur (RC). LD: 7 Oct., se. Du Page Co (fide EW).

Willet
EA: 20 July (2), Decatur (MD); 9 Aug., RLCA (KR). LD: 31 Aug., Evanston (JD). Others: 16 Aug. (2), Spring L C.A. (KR); 20 Aug., LCal (AS).

Spotted Sandpiper
EA: 2 July, Decatur & Champaign (RC); 23 July, Alexander Co (KM). MC: 4, Spfld 21 Aug. (DB). LD: 4 Nov., IBSP (AS).

Upland Sandpiper
EA: 4 July (3), Decatur (MD,RC). MC: 17, Decatur, 31 Aug. (MD); 6, Momence, 6 Aug. (m.ob.). LD: 2-16 Sep., Rend L (LS).

Whimbrel
EA: 6 Aug., Momence (JO,DM,RH); 31 Aug., Evanston (EW). LD: 15 Sep., JP (PC); 15 Sep., Chi (KH,JP). Others: 1 Sep., Chi (JO); 2 Sep., Chi (RC); 2, IBSP, 2 Sep. (AS); 9 Sep., IBSP (AS).

Hudsonian Godwit
EA: 6 Aug. (ad.), Kidd L (Monroe Co) (*DBe). LD: 9-19 Nov., LChau (KR,m.ob.).

Marbled Godwit
EA: 27-30 July, RLCA (KR,m.ob.); 6 Aug., Momence (JO,DM,RH). LD: 8-9 Sep., RLCA (RC,KR).

Ruddy Turnstone
EA: 28 July, Evanston (EW); 6 Aug., Decatur (MD); 10 Aug.,

Jackson Co (KM). MC: 7, Rend L, 12-13 Aug. (DK,KM,m.ob.). LD: 8 Sep., RLCA (KR).

Red Knot
EA: 23 Aug. (imm.), JP (PC); 17 Sep. (imm.), Clin.L (MD). LD: 21 Oct., Clin.L (RC).

Sanderling
EA: 22 July (2), Chi (JL). MC: 200+, Chi, 23 Sep. (RC,m.ob.), 72, Chi, 1 Sep. (EW); 10, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM). LD: 16 Nov. (imm.), Evanston (EW); 21 Oct. (5), RLCA (KR). Others: 2 Oct., **Carbondale** (*TD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper
EA: 9 July, Decatur (RC); 23 July, Alexander Co (KM). MC: 1000+, LChau, 29 July (RC,MD); 176, Chi, 12 Aug. (JL). LD: 30 Sep., Carl.L (KM).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 16 July (ad.), Chi (O'Hare airport) (JL); 23 July, Decatur (RC); 23 July (2), Alexander Co (KM); 19 Aug. (imm.), LCal (WM). MC: 25, Carl.L, 27 Aug. (MD). LD: 5-6 Oct., Havana (KR).

Least Sandpiper
EA: 21 June, LCal (JL); 1 July (3), Arcola (RC); 29 July (imm.), LCal (JL). MC: 506, LCal, 9 July (JL); 90, Rend L, 17 Oct. (LS). LD: 24 Oct., Wilmette (EW,JK).

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 9 Sep. (2), Carl.L (KM); 9 Sep., Clin.L (MD). MC: **60**, RLCA, 12 Sep. (KR). LD: 21 Sep., RLCA (KR).

Baird's Sandpiper
EA: 23 July, Jackson Co (KM). MC: **120**, RLCA, 1 Sep. (KR). LD: 26 Oct. (2), RLCA (KR).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 1 July, Arcola (RC). MC: 300, LCal, 30 July (JL); 200, Alexander Co, 23 July (KM). LD: 25 Nov., LChau (KR); 4 Nov., IBSP (AS).

Dunlin
EA: 16 Sep., Carl.L (KM). MC: 350, RLCA, 26 Oct. (KR); 100, LCNP, 29 Oct. (CMc,JMc). LD: 3 Dec., Chi (AS,JPu); 17 Nov., LChau (KR).

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 2 July (4 ad.), LCal (JL, WM); 15 July, Arcola (RC); 23 July (50), Alexander Co (KM). MC: 75, RLCA, 15 Sep. & 21 Oct. (KR); 20, Alexander Co, 10 Aug. (KM); 13, LCal, 14 July (EW,JE). LD: 2 Nov., Carl.L (KM); 26 Oct. (3), RLCA (KR); 17 Oct. (2), Pratt-Wayne F.P. (Du Page Co) (JPo).

American Woodcock, Springfield, 21 Oct. 1995. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Heidecke Lake, Grundy Co., 8 Sept. 1995. Photo by Joe Milosevich.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
EA: 6 Aug. (6), Momence (m.ob.); 19 Aug. (2), Carl.L (DK). MC: **43**, Momence, 2 Sep. (RC). LD: 1 Oct., Decatur; 8 Sept., Grundy Co (JM); (MD); **23 Sep.**, IBSP (AS).

Ruff
EA: 3 Aug. (male), **Carl.L** (DK).

Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 25 June, LCal (JL); 7 July (2), Dickson Mounds (Fulton Co) (KR). MC: 327, LCal, 15 July (JL). LD: 17 Sep. (3), LCal (JL).

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: 1 Aug., Spring L.C.A. (KR). MC: 110, LChau, 29 Sep. (KR); 45, Carl.L, 29 Oct. (DK); 40, LCNP, 29 Sep. (CMc,JMc). LD: 5 Nov., LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Common Snipe
EA: 23 Aug., Sang.L (DB). MC: 21, LChau, 24 Nov. (EW,DK,LA).

American Woodcock
EA: 14 Oct., JP (PC). 21 Oct, Springfield (DO). LD: 7 Nov., Bushnell (LH); 5 Nov., Thornton (WM).

Wilson's Phalarope
EA: 29 July, LChau (MD, RC). MC: 15, LChau, 16-19 Aug. (KR, RC). LD: **24 Nov.**, LChau (DK,EW,LA).

Red-necked Phalarope
EA: 19 July-11 Aug., Decatur (MD); 20 Aug., Carl.L (DK). MC: 5, RLCA, 26-28 Aug & 18-20 Sep.(KR). LD: 29 Sep., RLCA (KR).

Red Phalarope
EA: 8 Sep. (imm.), Decatur (MD); 8-10 Sep., RLCA (KR,m.ob.). LD: 3 Nov., Wauk (*DJ); 26 Oct., RLCA (KR). Others: 1 Oct., LChau (KR); 15 Oct., LChau (KR).

Jaeger
EA: 8 Sep. (imm.), Spfld (DB). 17 Sep., LCNP (*Cmc,JMc photos); probable Parasitic.

Laughing Gull
EA: 19 Aug. (imm.), RLCA (RC). MC: **7** (imm.), Decatur, 27 Aug. (MD). LD: 9 Nov. (imm.), Spfld (DB) Others: 20 Aug.-9

Sep.(at least 1), Decatur (MD); 27 Aug., Carl.L (MD); 4 Sep. (imm.), Spfld (DB); 8 Sep., RLCA (imm.) (KR); 19-23 Sep. (imm.), Spfld (DB); 14 Oct. (1st winter), MTNWR (*WR).

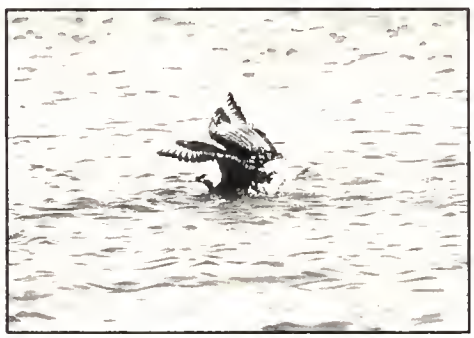
Franklin's Gull
EA: 19 Aug., Carl.L (DK). MC: **220**, Spfld, 30 Oct. (DB); **211**, Wilmette, 24 Oct. (EW,m.ob.); **195**, Chi, 24 Oct. (RH,JPu); 40, Carl.L, 29 Oct. (DK). LD: 18 Nov., Clin.L (RC); 4 Nov., Wauk (AS). Probably over **300** flying down L Michigan on 24 Oct. (m.ob.).

Little Gull
EA: 28 Oct. (ad.), Wilmette (EW—photos); 29 Oct. (ad.), Clin.L (RC). LD: 24 Nov. (1st-winter), IBSP (AS); 7 Nov. (imm.), Pekin (KR).

Bonaparte's Gull
EA: 17 July (2 ad.), JP (PC); 9 Aug., Decatur (MD). MC: 1000, Clin.L, 18 Nov. (RC); 425+, Wilmette, 12 Nov. (EW,JE).

Black-headed Gull
8 Nov. (1), Clin L, RC (see seasonal highlights).

Probable Parasitic Jaeger, La Salle Co., 17 Sept. 1995. Photo by Cynthia and John McKee.



Ring-billed Gull
MC: 10,000, RLCA, 19 Aug. (RC); 2300, Palos, 2 Nov. (CT); 2000, HLCA, 8 Nov. (KM).

Herring Gull
EA: 9 Aug. (imm.), Decatur (MD). MC: 1500, LCal, 24 Nov. (WM).

Thayer's Gull
EA: 23 Oct. (ad.), Evanston (EW). Others: 27 Oct. (imm.), Wilmette (EW) ; 5 Nov. (near ad.), Chi (JL); 22 Nov. (ad.), JP (DM).

Iceland Gull
EA: 26 Nov. (ad."**kumlieni**"), LCal (JL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 7-15 Oct. (ad.), LChau (KR). Others: 28 Oct. (1st winter), Decatur (MD); 2 Nov., Palos (CT); 4 Nov. (ad.), LChau (RC); 18 Nov., Carl.L (DK); 27 Nov. (3rd winter), Spfld (DB).

Glaucous Gull
EA: 17 Nov. (1st winter), Wilmette (CF). Others: 18 Nov., JP (PC); 24 Nov. (ad.), IBSP (AS); 25 Nov. (ad.), Winthrop Harbor (EW); 26 Nov. (ad.), LCal.

Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 28-29 Nov. (1st winter), Chi (RH,m.ob.). Others: 12 Nov. (ad.), IBSP (AS) (summering bird?).

Black-legged Kittiwake
EA: 4 Nov. (2nd winter), LChau (RC); 10 Nov. (1st winter), HLCA (KM). LD: 22-24 Nov., Pekin (KR).

Sabine's Gull
EA: 6-7 Sep. (ad.), RLCA (KR); 9 Sep. (3), Carl.L (DK). MC: **7**, Carl.L, 17 Sep. (DK). LD: 24 Sep., LShel (RC); 23 Sep., Carl.L (DK,KM). Others: 8 Sep. (1st winter), Decatur (MD); 17 Sep. (imm.), MTNWR (WR); 18 Sep. (imm.), Spfld (DB).

Caspian Tern
EA: 26 June (3 ad.), Spfld (DB); 30 June (4), JP (PC). MC: 52, Evanston, 15 Aug. (EW); 34, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM); 25, RLCA, 14 Aug. (KR). LD: 7 Oct. (2), Spfld (DB); 27 Sep. (2), JP (PC).

Common Tern
EA: **3 Aug.** (2 ad.), JP (PC). MC: 10, Evanston, 31 Aug. (EW); 5, HLCA, 24 Sep. (WR). LD: **3 Nov.** (imm.), Spfld (DB).

Forster's Tern
EA: 23 June, Spfld (DB). MC: 46, Decatur, 7 Sep. (MD); 20, Chi, 24 Oct. (RH,JPu). LD: 3 Nov., Wilmette (EW); 1 Nov. (6), Wilmette (EW); 28 Oct. (14), Rend L (LS).

Least Tern
LD: 10 Aug. (ad.), **RLCA** (KR); 10 Aug. (1 ad., 1 imm.), Jackson Co (KM); 10 Aug. (ad.), **Decatur** (MD).

Black Tern
EA: 2 July, LCal (WM); 20 July (16 ad.), Spfld (DB); 23 July, Mermet L.C.A. (KM). MC: 80, LChau, 9 & 16 Aug. (KR); 65. sw. Jackson Co, 10 Aug. (KM). LD: 20 Sep., Palos (WS).

Mourning Dove
MC: 115, Spfld, 6 Oct. (DB); 67, JP, 17 Sep. (PC).

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 20 July, JP (PC). LD: 3 Oct., Buckhart (DB); 26 Sep., JP (PC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 14 July, Evanston (JE). MC: 8, Spfld, 20 Aug. (DB). LD: 15 Oct., Clinton Co (KM); 9 Oct., Spfld (DB); 1 Oct., JP (AS,m.ob.).

Barn Owl
breeding pr. present in Aug. & Sep., n. Vermilion Co (JS,DW).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 5, RLCA, 2-3 Oct. (KR). Others: 10 Oct., Evanston (EW).

Adult Little Gull, front, at Wilmette's Gillson Park, 28 Oct. 1995. Note smaller overall length, small head, dark crown, short legs, and whiter primary wingtips relative to the pictured Bonaparte's Gulls.

Right, Barred Owl, Klehm Forest Preserve, Winnebago Co., 22 Nov. 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Northern Saw-whet Owl, Springfield, 26 Oct. 1995. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Barred Owl
22 Nov., Klehm FP, Winnebago Co. (JM).

Long-eared Owl
EA: 8 Nov., Chi (Bird Sanctuary) (KHi); 15 Nov., Evanston (EW—photos).

Short-eared Owl
EA: 26 Sep. (2), JP (PC,KC). MC: 11, IBSP, 28 Oct. (AS). LD: 25 Nov., Chi (JPu); 10 Nov., Wilmette (EW).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
EA: 26 Oct., Spfld (DB). Others: 1 Nov., Spfld (DB); 19 Nov., Allerton Park (north side) (Piatt Co) (MD); 26 Nov., Allerton Park (south side) (Piatt Co) (RC).

Common Nighthawk
MC: 2000+, Decatur, 13 Sep. (MD); 465, Evanston, 20 Aug (JD). LD: 6 Nov., Evanston (Arts Center) (*JE).

Whip-poor-will
LD: 8 Oct. (male), Spfld (DB).

Chimney Swift
MC: 2000+, Decatur, 13 Sep. (MD); 886, JP, 7 Sep. (PC); 270, Belleville, 27 Sep. (KM). LD: 23 Oct. (3), Glencoe (JSa); 14 Oct. (3), Spfld (DB). Others: 270+, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: 13 Aug., LCal (RC). MC: 30+ (at feeders), West Frankfort, 20 Aug.-14 Sep. (LS). LD: 20 Oct., West Frankfort (LS); 6 Oct., Ottawa (CMc, JMc).

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 15 Aug., Evanston (EW). LD (north): 7 Dec. (male), JP (PC).

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 1 Sep. (5 ad.), Chi/JP (EW,PC). MC: 8, Spfld, 10 Sep. (DB); 5, JP, 15 Sep. (PC). LD (north): 25 Oct., JP (PC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
LD (north): 23 Nov. (male), JP (PC). Others: 19 Aug.-2 Sep. (2 imm.), Evanston (EW,m.ob.); 9 Sep., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (EW,JSa).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 17 Sep. (imm. female), JP (PC); 17 Sep. (imm.), Buckhart (DB). MC: 10, Chi, 23 Sep. (RC). LD (north): 12 Nov., JP (KC).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 14, Spfld, 1 Nov. (DB); 9, JP, 30 Nov. (PC).

Northern Flicker
MC: 35, JP, 18 Sep. (TJ). LD (north): 27 Nov. (3), LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 5, Spfld, 17 Nov. (DB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 12 Aug., Evanston (EW); 16 Aug., Dickson Mounds (Fulton Co) (KR). LD: 28 Sep., JP (KC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 24 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 11, Spfld, 14 Sep. (DB). LD: 7 Oct., Spfld (DB); 2 Oct., Rockford (BG).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: 6 Aug., Chi (JL); 8 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 4, Spfld, 21 Aug. & 2 Sep. (DB). LD: 25 Sep., Spfld (DB); 24 Sep., JP (PC).

Acadian Flycatcher
LD: 11 Sep., Sang.L (DB); 4 Sep., Rock Cut S.P. (BG).

Alder Flycatcher
EA: 20 Aug., Urbana (RC). LD: 7 Sep., Sang.L (DB).

Willow Flycatcher
EA: 1 Sep., JP (PC). LD: 18 Sep., McHenry Co (DF).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 19 July, Spfld (DB); 29 July, Chi (JL). LD: 10 Oct., Chi (JE). Empidonax species (mainly Least) MC: 37, Chi, 9 Sep. (JL).

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 30 Aug., Chi (JL). MC: 10, JP, 19 Oct. (PC); 7, Spfld, 16 Oct. (DB). LD: 15 Nov., JP (PC).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER
31 Aug.-2 Sep., Chi (McCormick Place) (JO,*m.ob.—photos). 1st state juvenal record. 2d confirmed state record - (see story in this issue.)

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 20 July, JP (PC). MC: 8, Spfld, 21 Aug. (DB). LD: 27 Sep., Spfld (DB).

Western Kingbird
12 July (breeding?), Manito (KR); 4 Sep., Charleston (*BH).

Eastern Kingbird
EA: 20 Aug. (7), JP (PC). MC: 36, Decatur, 6 Sep. (MD). LD: 20 Sep., Carl.L (KR); 17 Sep. (2), Chi (JL).

Horned Lark
MC: 52, Spfld, 3 Sep. (DB). LD: 13 Oct., M.Arb (EW); 6 Oct. (3), Evanston (EW—photos).

Purple Martin
EA: 2 July (6 migrants), Evanston (EW); 17 July (flocking), Spfld (DB). MC: 247, JP, 26 Aug. (PC); 200, Banner Marsh C.A., 23 Aug. (KR). LD: 30 Sep., Decatur (MD).

Golden-crowned Kinglet at Evanston Art Center, Cook Co., 1 Nov. 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Tree Swallow
EA: 3 July, Evanston (EW); 17 July, Spfld (DB). MC: 25,000, Spring L C.A., 21 Sep. (KR); 12,000, Carl.L, 15 Oct. (KM). LD: 14 Nov. (2), HLCA (KM); 2 Nov. (150), RLCA (KR); 24 Oct. Wilmette (EW). Others: 63, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: 3 July (2), Evanston (EW). LD: 30 Sep. (2), Spfld (DB).

Bank Swallow
EA: 11 July (62), Spfld (DB). MC: 11,000, Havana, 11 Aug. (KR); 175, LCal, 19 Aug. (WM). LD: 22 Sep. (found dead), Spring L C.A. (KR).

Cliff Swallow
EA: 25 July, Spfld (DB). MC: 300, Spfld, 26 Aug. (DB); 40, Carl.L, 23 Sep. (KM). LD: 30 Sep., Carl.L (KM).

Barn Swallow
EA: 3 July (12), Evanston (EW). MC: 149, JP, 18 Aug. (PC). LD: 25 Oct., Spfld (DB); 14 Oct. (66), IBSP (WS,EW,JE).

Blue Jay
EA: 27 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 43, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE).

American Crow
MC: 2400 (roost), Homewood, 28 Nov. (WS).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 25, Spfld, 17 Nov. (DB); 16, JP, 3 Sep. (PC).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 18, Spfld, 24 Aug. & 26 Sep. (DB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 6 Aug., Chi (JL); 1 Sep. (4), Urbana (RC); 1 Sep., Spfld (DB). MC: 20, M.Arb, 1 Sep. (EW); 19, Spfld, 16 Sep. (DB). LD (breeding): 4 Sep., Shirland (Winnebago Co) (BG).

White-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 30 July (2), JP (PC). MC: 8, Spfld, 14 Sep. (DB); 6, Palatine, 25 Nov. (CF).

Brown Creeper
EA: 18 Sep., Winnebago Co (BG). MC: 15, JP, 31 Oct (PC); 10, Spfld, 17 Nov. (DB).

Carolina Wren
MC: 13, Spfld, 1 Nov. (DB). Others (north): 16 July, JP (PC); 15 Aug., JP (PC); 26-27 Aug., Chi (JL); 9 Sep., Palos (CT); 5 Nov., Thornton (WM).

House Wren
MC: 16, Spfld, 6 Oct. (DB). LD: 30 Oct., Spfld (DB); 21 Oct. (2), Chi (JL).

Winter Wren
EA: 15 Sep. (2), JP (PC); 18 Sep. (2), Urbana (RC). MC: 15, Urbana, 15 Oct. (RC); 7, JP, 26 Oct. (JP). LD (north): 23 Nov., JP (PC); 23 Nov., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (AS).

Sedge Wren
EA: 14 Sep. (2), JP (PC). MC: 12, Matanzas Prairie, 6-7 Oct. (KR). LD: 7 Nov., Matanzas Prairie (KR).

Marsh Wren
EA: 25 Aug. (imm.), Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (RBa); 10 Sep., RLCA (KR). MC: 6, RLCA, 3 Oct. (KR). LD: 7 Nov., Matanzas Prairie (KR); 22 Oct., JP (PC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 22 Sep., Wilmette (JE); 24 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 157, JP, 31 Oct. (PC). 1 Nov., Evanston (EW). LD (north): 26 Nov., JP (SF).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 3 Sep., Decatur (MD). MC: 49, JP, 31 Oct. (PC); 32, Spfld, 16 Oct. (DB). LD: 28 Nov., Spfld (DB); **25 Nov.**, JP (PC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
LD: 19 Sep., Spfld (DB).

Eastern Bluebird
MC: 100+, Clin.L, 28 Oct. (RC); 22, Blackwell F.P., 29 Sep. (CF).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
19-20 Nov., LCNP (GR,DB,MH,CMc). IL's 4th state record (see seasonal highlights).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE
17 Nov.- 1 Jan. 1996, Rockford (*RM,m.ob.—photo); 25 Nov-21 Jan. 1996, Wauk (*EW,*m.ob—ph./video). IL's 15th & 16th state records (see seasonal highlights).

Veery
EA: 7 Aug., Morton (KR). MC: 10, Spfld, 8 Sep. (DB); 3, JP, 14 Sep (PC,m.ob.). LD: 27 Sep., JP (PC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 24 Aug., JP (PC); 1 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 12, JP, 27 Sep. (PC). LD: **1 Nov.**, Evanston (EW-photos).

Swainson's Thrush
EA: **15 July**, JP (DM); 27 Aug., Urbana (RC); 27 Aug., Mattoon (BH). MC: 70, Urbana, 18 Sep. (RC); 53, JP, 7 Sep (PC). LD: 15 Oct. (2), Chi (JL).

Hermit Thrush
EA: 1 Sep., Chi (KR,AS.m.ob.); 18 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 100+, Urbana, 15 Oct. (RC); 91, JP, 15 Oct. (PC). LD (north): **2 Dec. (2)**, JP (PC, DP).

Wood Thrush
EA: 19 Sep., JP (PC). MC: 7, Urbana, 18 Sep. (RC). LD: 14 Oct., Clin.L (RC).

American Robin
MC: 363, JP, 5 Oct. (PC). Others: 16 Aug.-22 Sep. (partial albino), Bushnell (LH).

Gray Catbird
MC: 50+, Urbana, 24 Sep. (RC). LD: 21 Nov., Spfld (DB); 19 Nov., Urbana (RC,m.ob.); 12 Nov., Evanston (JE).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 9, Spfld, 8 Aug. (DB).

Brown Thrasher
MC: 13, Spfld, 16 Sep. (DB); 8, Carl.L, 12 Sep. (KM). LD: 21 Nov., Spfld (DB); 14 Nov., M.Arb (CMc,JMc).

American Pipit
EA: 16 Sep., Wilmette (EW—photo.); 23 Sep. (6), RLCA (KR). MC: 20, Carl.L, 2 Nov. (KM). LD: **27 Nov.**, LCNP (CMc,JMc); 25 Oct., Evanston (EW).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING
EA: 18 Nov., JP (*PC).

Cedar Waxwing
EA: 30 July (5), Chi (EW); 18 Sep. (10), Fulton Co (KW). MC: 500, Rockford, 22 Nov. (RC); 420, Carl.L, 30 Oct. (KM); 395+, Evanston, 29-31 Aug. (JD,EW). LD: 18 Nov. (28), Evanston (EW).

Northern Shrike
EA: 12 Oct., Chi (Montrose) (JPu); 18-19 Oct. Palatine (CF). Others: 18 Oct.-10 Nov., Chi (Montrose) (JPu,EW,RH—ph.); 13 & 25 Nov., **Sangchris State Park** (*DB); 15-17 Nov. (ad.), JP (PC,TJ); 16 Nov., Wilmette (JK); 17 Nov., **Clin.L** (MD); 24-25 Nov., **Spring L C.A.** (KR,m.ob.); 28 Nov., Palos (CT); 29 Nov., Pratt Wayne F.P. (Du Page Co) (JPo); 3-14 Dec., Chi (Montrose) (JPu,RH).

Loggerhead Shrike
EA: 18 Sep., Bushnell (LH). LD: 24 Nov., Matanzas Prairie (KR); 23 Nov., Topeka (KR).

European Starling
MC: 1,149, JP, 4 Aug. (PC).

White-eyed Vireo
EA: 4 Sep., Rock Cut S.P. (BG). LD: 10 Oct. (male), Sang.L (DB).

Bell's Vireo
LD: 10 Sep., Spfld (DB).

Solitary Vireo
EA: 14 Sep., Peoria (KR); 14 Sep. (2), Spfld (DB). MC: 3, Spfld, 3 & 6 Oct. (DB). LD: 5 Nov., Spfld (DB); 21 Oct., Fermi (JPo).

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 1 Sep., M.Arb (EW); 14 Sep., Peoria (KR). MC: 4, Spfld, 5 Sep. (DB). LD: 3 Oct., Pratt-Wayne F.P. (Du Page Co) (JPo).

Warbling Vireo
EA: 4 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 9, JP, 4 Sep. (PC). LD: 27 Sep., Spfld (DB); 13 Sep. (2), JP (PC).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 27 Aug., Urbana (RC). MC: 4, Spfld, 14 & 26 Sep. (DB). LD: 20 Oct., Spfld (DB); 11 Oct., Evanston (JE).

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 31 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 22, Spfld, 8 Sep. (DB); 6, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM). LD: 17 Oct., Spfld (DB); 10 Oct., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (JSa).

Blue-winged Warbler
MC: 3, Spfld, 8 Sep. (DB). LD: 17 Sep., Spfld (DB).

Golden-winged Warbler
EA: 20 Aug. (female), Spfld (DB). MC: **8**, Spfld, 5 & 8 Sep. (DB). LD: 30 Sep. (female), JP (PC).

Tennessee Warbler
EA: 4 Aug. (2), JP (PC); 21 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 29, JP, 31 Aug. (PC); 24, Spfld, 24 Sep. (DB). LD: 22 Oct., Evanston (EW); 21 Oct., JP (PC); 20 Oct., IBSP (EW).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: 10 Sep., Urbana (RC). 15 MC: 9, Spfld, 16 Oct. (DB); 5, JP, 21 Oct. (PC). LD: 8 Nov., Chi (EW).

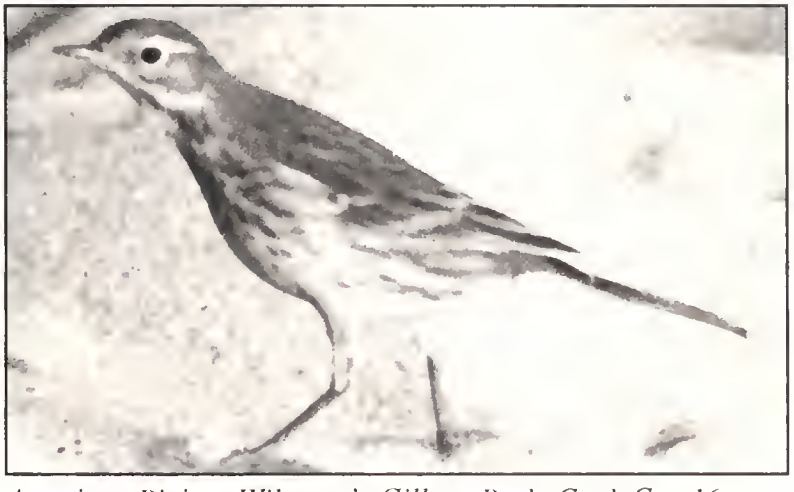
Nashville Warbler
EA: 29 Aug. (2), JP (PC,KC); 3 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 14, Spfld, 24 Sep. (DB); **9**, JP, 8 Sep. (PC,KC). LD: 1 Nov., Spfld (DB); 26 Oct., JP (PC).

Northern Parula
EA: 27 Aug. (2—1 ad.male), Urbana (RC). MC: 5, Spfld, 22 Sep. (DB). LD: **22 Oct.**, Chi (AS).

Yellow Warbler
EA: 27 July, JP (PC). LD: 13 Sep., JP (PC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
EA: 20 Aug. (imm.), Spfld (DB). MC: 20, Urbana, 27 Aug. (RC). LD: 16 Oct., JP (KC).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 24 Aug., JP (PC); 26 Aug., Middlefork Forest Preserve (Champaign Co) (RC). MC: 43, JP, 27 Sep. (PC); 25, Urbana, 3 Sep. (RC); 10, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM). LD: **29 Oct.**, Evanston (EW); **28 Oct.**, JP (PC).



American Pipit at Wilmette's Gillson Park, Cook Co., 16 Sept. 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Cape May Warbler
EA: 23 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 27, Chi 9 Sep. (JL). LD: 21 Oct., JP (PC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler
EA: **27 Aug.** (male), Urbana (RC); 27 Aug. (male), Chi (JL). MC: 3, JP, 8 Sep. (PC); 3 (2 male, 1 female), Chi, 30 Sep. (JL). LD: **26-28 Oct.**, JP (KC); 8 Oct. (male), Spfld (DB); 7 Oct. (female), Decatur (RC). Others (south): 16 Sep., Carl.L (DK).

Yellow-rumped Warbler
EA: 30 Aug., Chi (JL); 10 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: **3000** (est.), Chi, 14 Oct. (JL); **1286**, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE); 78, Spfld, 4 Oct. (DB); 65, Carl.L, 15 Oct. (KM). LD: 25 Nov., Palatine (CF).

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 8 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 17, Spfld 24 Sep. (DB); 10, JP, 26

Sep. (PC). LD: 2 Nov., Carl.L (KM); 23 Oct. (female), Spfld (**DB); 19 Oct., JP (PC).

Blackburnian Warbler
EA: 21 Aug. (4), Spfld (DB); 24 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 7, Jubilee College S.P., 31 Aug. (KR). LD: 11 Oct. (2), Spfld (DB); 26 Sep., JP (PC).

Yellow-throated Warbler
EA: 18 Aug., Spfld (DB). LD: 8 Sep., Buckhart (DB).

Pine Warbler
EA: 21 Aug. (imm.), Spfld (DB); 1 Sep., Chi (MD). MC: 3, Wauk, 27 Sep. (DJ). LD: 14 Oct., JP (PC).

Palm Warbler
EA: 30 Aug. (2), Chi (JL); 1 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: **800** (est.), Chi, 14 Oct. (JL); 34, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE). LD: 2 Nov., Evanston (EW).

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 22 Aug., Spfld (DB); 27 Aug. (5), JP/Chi (PC,m.ob.). MC: 11, Spfld, 14 Sep. (DB); 10, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM). LD: 20 Oct., JP (PC).

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 27 Aug., JP (PC); 2 Sep., Sang.L (DB). MC: 40, Chi, 2 Sep. (RC). LD: 16 Oct.(breeding plumage), Wilmette (JE-ph.).

Cerulean Warbler
LD: 18 Sep., Urbana (RC).

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: 21 July (male), JP (PC); 21 Aug. (2 female), Spfld (DB). MC: 9, Spfld, 2 Sep. (DB); 8, Carl.L, 9 Sep. (KM); 7, JP, 3 Sep. (PC).

American Redstart
EA: 2 Aug., JP (PC); 20 Aug. (male, female), Spfld (DB). MC: 26, JP, 8 Sep. (JP); 20, Urbana, 1 Sep. (RC). LD: 25 Oct., JP (PC).

Prothonotary Warbler
LD: 9 Sep., Carl.L (KM); 9 Sep., Clin.L (MD).

Worm-eating Warbler
LD: **24 Sep.**, Spfld (DB).

Ovenbird
EA: 24 Aug. (2), Spfld (DB); 24 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 20, Urbana, 18 Sep. (RC); 14, JP, 17 Sep. (PC). LD: 22 Oct., Urbana (RC); 13 Oct., M.Arb (EW).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: 30 July, JP (PC); 11 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 7, JP, 3 Sep. (PC); 3, Matanzas Prairie, 6 Oct. (KR). LD: 3 Nov., JP (PC).

Louisiana Waterthrush
EA: 12 Aug., Chi (JL). LD: 8 Sep., Chi (JL).

Kentucky Warbler
LD: 4 Sep., **Rock Cut S.P.** (BG).

Connecticut Warbler
EA: 30 Aug., JP (KC,m.ob.); 30 Aug., Chi (JL). LD: 25 Sep., Chi (EW).

Mourning Warbler
EA: 19 Aug., JP (PC); 20 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 4, JP, 1 Sep. (PC). LD: 30 Sep., Chi (JL).

Common Yellowthroat
EA: 2 Sep., JP (PC). MC: 15, JP, 27 Sep. (PC). LD: 5 Nov., Wilmette (JK).

Hooded Warbler
LD: 4 Sep., **Rock Cut S.P.** (BG). Others: 31 Aug., Jubilee College S.P. (KR).

Wilson's Warbler
EA: 22 Aug., JP (KC); 24 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 8, Spfld, 8 Sep. (DB); 7, Chi, 9 Sep. (JL). LD: 8 Oct., JP (PC).

Canada Warbler
EA: 17 Aug., Spfld (DB); 20 Aug. (3), Chi/JP (JL,PC); 24 Aug., Buckner (Franklin Co) (LS). MC: 7, Spfld, 8 Sep. (DB). LD: 14 Sep., Spfld (DB); 10 Sep.(2), JP (PC,TJ).

Yellow-breasted Chat
LD: 7 Sep., Sang.L (DB).

Summer Tanager
LD: 2 Oct., Spfld (DB).

Scarlet Tanager
EA: 1 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 6, JP, 27 Sep. (PC,TJ). LD: **25 Nov.**, Chi (KH).

Northern Cardinal
MC: 33, Spfld, 28 Nov. (DB); 27, JP, 27 Aug. (PC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: 5 Aug. (male), JP (PC); 17 Aug., Spfld (DB). MC: 40, Urbana, 18 Sep. (RC); 9, JP, 27 Sep. (PC); 8, Carl.L, 12 Sep.(KM). LD: 25 Oct., CNC (RBa).

Blue Grosbeak
LD: 23 Aug., Duck Creek (Fulton Co) (KR).

Indigo Bunting
MC: 40, North Chicago, 27 Sep. (DJ); 20, Spfld, 8 Aug. (DB). LD: 31 Oct. (male), Spfld (DB).

Dickcissel
LD: 18 Nov., Carl.L (DK); 16 Oct., Spfld (DB); 29 Sep. (female), JP (KC). Others: 7 July (male), JP (PC).

Rufous-sided Towhee
EA: 23 Sep., Chi (JL). MC: 8, Spfld, 30 Oct. (DB). LD (north): 31 Oct. (female), JP (PC).

American Tree Sparrow
EA: 1 Oct., Chi (JL). MC: 137, LCNP, 19 Nov. (CMc,JMc).

Chipping Sparrow
MC: 75, SRSF, 7 Sep. (KR); 68, M.Arb, 1 Sep. (EW). LD: 16 Nov., Spfld (DB); 15 Nov., JP (DM); 13 Nov., Urbana (RC). Others: 12, JP, 3 Sep. (PC).

Clay-colored Sparrow
EA: 22 Sep., Wilmette (EW); 23 Sep. (imm.), Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (RBa,m.ob.). LD: 21 Oct., Decatur (MD). Others: 1 Oct., Chi (AS); 7 Oct., Mahomet (RC).

Field Sparrow
EA: 23 Sep., Chi (RC). MC: 26, IBSP, 20 Oct. (EW); 24, Spfld 8 Oct. (DB). LD: 14 Nov., Sang.L (DB); 3 Nov. (2), M.Arb (EW).

Vesper Sparrow
MC: 5, Spfld, 31 Oct. (DB); 4, Chi, 22 Oct. (AS). LD: 23 Nov., Buckhart (DB); 19 Nov., LCNP (CMc,JMc); 3-4 Nov., Evanston (JKo,m.ob.).

Savannah Sparrow
EA: 31 Aug. (2), Evanston (EW); 4 Sep., Sang.L (DB). MC: 70, Royalton (Franklin Co), 30 Oct. (LS); 25, RLCA, 26 Oct. (KR). LD (north): 27 Nov. (2), LCNP (CMc,JMc).

Grasshopper Sparrow
EA: 12 Sep., JP (PC). LD: 29 Oct., Spfld (DB).

Henslow's Sparrow
EA: 29 Sep., JP (KC). LD: 26 Oct., JP (PC). Others (post-breeding?): 19 Aug. (1 ad.,1 imm.), Matthieson S.P. (CMc,JMc).

Le Conte's Sparrow
EA: 21 Sep., RLCA (KR). LD: 26 Oct. (2), RLCA (KR); 24 Oct., JP (PC). Others: 14 Oct. (2), IBSP (EW,m.ob.); 13 Oct., **M.Arb** (EW).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow
EA: 14 Sep. (2), JP (PC); 15 Sep. (3), RLCA (KR). MC: 15, RLCA, 3 Oct. (KR); 5, M.Arb, 13 Oct. (EW). LD: 2 Nov., M.Arb (EW); 26 Oct. (5), RLCA (KR). Others: 3, IBSP, 14 & 20 Oct. (EW,JE); 29-30 Sep., Wilmette (EW).

Fox Sparrow
EA: 18 Sep., Chi (EW,m.ob.); 5 Oct., SRSF (KR). MC: 27, JP, 25 Oct. (PC); 20, Matanzas Prairie, 21 Oct. (KR). LD: 15 Nov., Chi (EW).

Song Sparrow
EA: 20 Aug., JP (PC). MC: 75, Matanzas Prairie, 21 Oct. (KR); 27, JP, 25 Oct. (PC). LD: 13 Nov. (3), Wilmette (EW).

Lincoln's Sparrow
EA: 3 Sep., JP (PC). MC: 9, Spfld, 12 Oct. (DB); 8, JP, 3 Oct. (KC). LD: 14 Nov., DeKalb (RF); 1 Nov., Fermi (PK).

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 8 Sep., JP (KC); 18 Sep., Urbana (RC). MC: 100, Urbana, 22 Oct. (RC); 100, RLCA, 26 Oct. (KR); 62, JP, 24 Oct. (PC). LD: 21 Nov., Evanston (EW).

Common Grackle, partially albino, Springfield, 12 Nov. 1995. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 9 Sep., Chi (JL); 18 Sep., Urbana (RC); 18 Sep., Spfld (DB). MC: 1000+, Urbana, 15 Oct. (RC); 122, JP, 15 Oct. (PC). Others: 29 July (likely summered), Chi (JL).

White-crowned Sparrow
EA: 23 Sep. (2), Chi JL); 5 Oct. (2 ad.), Spfld (DB). MC: 100, Urbana, 22 Oct. (RC); 20, JP, 3 Oct. (KC). LD (north): 21 Nov. (imm.), JP (PC). "Gambelli": 21 Oct., JP (PC).

Harris' Sparrow
EA: 11 Oct., Urbana (RC); 15 Oct. (imm.), JP (PC,KC). MC: 3 (imm.), Clin.L, 28 Oct. (JS,RC,SB). Others: 29 Oct., Decatur (MD); 29 Oct., Carl.L (DK); 25-29 Oct. (imm.), JP (PC,AS,m.ob.); 1 Nov. (imm.), Buckhart (DB); 1-13 Nov., Jersey County (HW). Good fall.

Dark-eyed Junco
EA: 14 Sep. (8), JP/Chi (PC,EW); 22 Sep., Rochester (DB); 15 Oct. (9), Carl.L (KM). MC: 741, JP, 25 Oct. (PC,KC); 390, Spfld, 30 Oct. (DB). "White-winged" form: 17 Nov., Clin.L (MD).

Lapland Longspur
EA: 23 Sep., Chi (RC); 20 Oct., Spfld (DB). MC: 2000, Clin.L, 12 Nov. (RC); 1000+, La Salle Co, 21 Nov. (JL). LD: 27 Nov. (2), Chi (EW).

Smith's Longspur
EA: 9 Nov., Havana (Sand I.) (KR).

Snow Bunting
EA: 22 Oct. (2), Chi (JL). MC: 105, IBSP, 4 Nov. (AS). Others (south): 25 Nov., Spfld (DB).

Bobolink
EA: 22 Aug., Spfld (DB). LD: 22 Oct. (2), Chi (AS).

Red-winged Blackbird
EA: 20 Aug. (127), JP (PC). MC: 3000 (roost), Spfld, 21 & 27 Oct. (DB). LD (north): 1 Nov., JP (PC).

Eastern Meadowlark
MC: 32, Carl.L, 15 Oct. (KM); 9, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE). LD (north): 29 Oct., JP (PC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
EA: 8 Aug., Sauget (St. Clair Co) (DK).

Rusty Blackbird
EA: 27 Sep., Wauk (DJ). MC: 75, MS, 3-4 Nov. (EW). LD: 24 Nov., Pratt-Wayne F.P. (JPo).

Brewer's Blackbird
EA: 4 Nov. (4), Fermi (fide EW). MC: 8 (7 males, 1 female), Fermi, 12 Nov. (JPo). LD: 24 Nov. (2), se. La Salle Co (EW).

Common Grackle
MC: 5000 (roost), Spfld, 25 Oct. (DB); 2800, LCal, 2 Oct. (WM). LD (north): 26 Nov., Techny (JE).

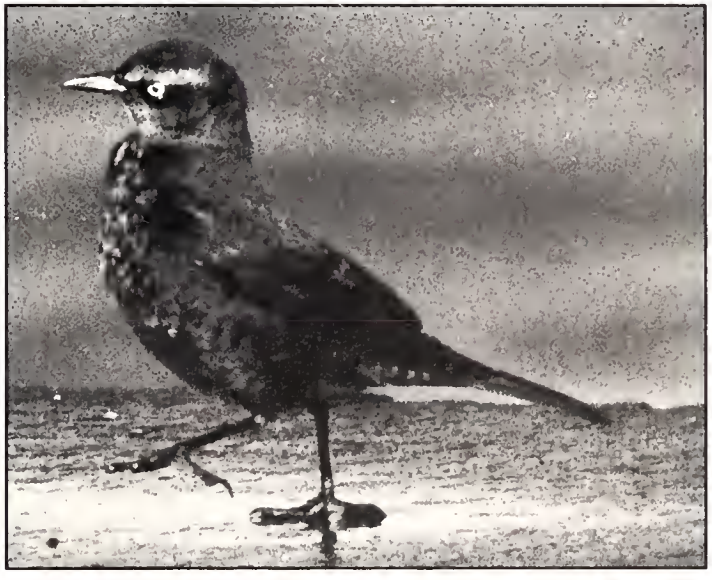
Brown-headed Cowbird
EA: 26 Aug. (5), JP (PC). MC: 1000, Spfld, 21 Oct. (DB).

Northern Oriole
MC: 9 (TV tower kill), Spfld, 8 Sep. (**DB); 7, JP, 15 Aug. (PC). LD: 24 Sep., Winnetka (fide EW).

Purple Finch
EA: 2 Sep. (2), Evanston (EW); 14 Sep., Chi (EW); 19 Sep., Spfld (DB). MC: 100+, Clin.L, 29 Oct. (RC); 10, IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE). LD: 28 Nov. (3), Spfld (DB); 5 Nov. (female), JP (PC).

House Finch
MC: 72, Spfld, 23 Oct. (DB).

White-winged Crossbill
EA: 9 Nov., Urbana (RC). Others: 26 Nov. (female), Wauk (AS,DJ).



Rusty Blackbird, fall plumage at Wilmette's Gillson Park, Cook Co., 4 Nov. 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Common Redpoll
EA: 9 Nov., JP (PC). MC: 12, SRSF, 14 Nov. (KR). Others: 25 Nov., Wauk (EW).

Pine Siskin
EA: 7 Oct., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (EW); 18 Oct. (2), Spfld (DB); 4 Nov., Highland (Madison Co) (DK). MC: 60, Clin.L, 26 Nov. (RC); 24, Thomson (Carroll Co), 18 Nov. (RF).

American Goldfinch
EA: 12 Oct. (20), JP (JO). MC: 500, Clin.L, 12 Nov. (RC); 72,

IBSP, 14 Oct. (EW,JE).

Evening Grosbeak
EA: 29 Oct. (5), Park Ridge (fide RB); 30 Oct., Evanston (JPo); 4 Nov., LChau (RC). MC: 21, Jersey County, 25 Nov. (HW); 15, Centerville (Piatt Co), 24 Nov. (BB); 8, Evanston, 26 Nov. (EW). Others: 4, Wauk, 25 Nov. (EW). Multiple sightings in late Nov. in ne. IL especially at feeders.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 20, Spfld, 19,25 Oct. (DB).

House Sparrow
MC: 497, JP, 20 Aug. (PC).

Exotics:

Trumpeter Swan
MC: 8, Clin.L, 18 Nov. (MD).

Egyptian Goose
3 Oct., LChau (KR).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 61, JP, 27 Aug. (PC). Others: 13 Oct., Wauk (DJ); 25 Nov., Zion (EW).

Budgerigar
2 Sep.-10 Nov., JP (KC,PC).

Mitred Conure
3-17 Sep., JP (PC).

Orange Bishop
19 Aug.-3 Nov. (male), JP (PC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Springfield, 25 Oct. 1995. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

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Due 7 December • Robert Chapel,
306 1/2 West California , Urbana, IL 61801

Winter Season - (1 December - 28 February)
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